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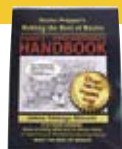
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DESIGNER: Eric Knagg
CREDIT: Frank Ockenfels 3/AMC



Signing books at Comic-Con, next to Mira Grant, author of the best-selling zombie series, *Feed*.

GET READY

Who's in your survival party?

BY MERRIE DESTEFANO

Like most of you, I have a semi-normal day job (editor for a variety of magazines) and a somewhat less-than-normal evening. At night, my love for science fiction, fantasy, the undead and the looming apocalypse come to life. Between reading novels about the end of the world and watching television shows like *The Walking Dead*, I write my own novels and attend local conventions like Comic-Con, WonderCon, and ConDor Con. Sometimes I speak on panels—which is great fun—but for me, the best time is always had wandering the exhibition floors and attending panels where other people speak.

I love hearing people discuss random theories like the singularity (when artificial intelligence will become greater than our own) and the looming apocalypse. Whether the end of the world comes via plague (see our story on page 32) or holocaust (check out our book section on page 122) or a zombie uprising (see our article on page 90, about who should be in your survival party), there seems to be a vast consensus that this event is quite possibly real.

Are you ready?

You might say yes, if you're like J.R. Posadas and have a Level 7 truck, customized to ward

off hordes of the undead (see the story on page 86.) Or if you've got a stockpile of weapons, like those in the article on page 80. Or maybe you haven't even started yet. For you, we have scores of hot zombie products, in sections beginning on pages 18, 52, and 94.

Whatever happens next, our best advice is—know your enemy, be prepared for his attack and, no matter what, find a way to survive.

Remember, humans rule, zombies drool!

Merrie Destefano

—Editor

ZOMBIES!

Volume 1, No. 2

EDITORIAL

Group Editor: Doug Jeffrey
Editor At Large: Merrie Destefano
Managing Editor: Breanna Armstrong
Creative Director: Eric Knagg
Designer: John Bernikow

CONTRIBUTORS

Garrett Kim, William Bodin, Sean Cooper, Marcus Goodyear, Elise Portale, Carolyn Koh, Suzanne Burmeister, Bethany Amanda Miller, Jolene Nolte, Margaret Kavanagh, Torrey Kim, Sean Kavanagh, Mike Duran, Angelo Scalise

ADVERTISING

Gabe Frimmel - Ad Sales Director
 (714) 200-1930 - GFrimmel@Beckett.com
David Beckler - Outdoor Group Director
 (972) 448-9173
Casey Clifford - Senior Account Executive
 (717) 896-8956
Mark Pack - Senior Account Executive
 (714) 200-1939
Gennifer Merriday - Ad Traffic Coordinator

DIRECT MARKETING GROUP

John Bartulin - (866) 866-5146 ext. 2746
Paul Caca - (866) 866-5146 ext. 4961
Ryan Lauro - (866) 866-5146 ext. 2756
Mary Ann Jaca - (866) 866-5146 ext 2716

OPERATIONS

Gus Alonzo: Newsstand Sales & Marketing Manager
Celia Merriday: Newsstand Analyst
Amit Sharma: Business Analytics Manager
Mohit Patel: Newsstand & Production Analyst
Alberto Chavez: Senior Logistics & Facilities Manager
John Cabral: Creative Graphic Designer

EDITORIAL, PRODUCTION & SALES OFFICE

22840 Savi Ranch Parkway, #200
 Yorba Linda, CA 92887
Ph: (800) 332-3330
Fax: (800) 249-7761
www.facebook.com/zombiesmagazine
www.facebook.com/eembybeckett

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Erin Masercola: Business Unit Editorial Director

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ZOMBIES AMONG US

The undead are out there and they're pretty easy to spot if you know what to look for. Here's a roundup of recent zombie sightings and incidents.

BY WILLIAM BONIN



DENNIS POROY/GETTY IMAGES

Zombie Night at Petco Park

The ceremonial first pitch at June 20, 2013's matchup between the San Diego Padres and the Los Angeles Dodgers didn't go according to plan when the catcher was unable to catch the ball. The catcher, as it turns out, was actually a zombie! Hordes of the undead then spilled out onto the field before being shuffled out. Local sportscasters observed that the zombies should have been allowed to play, as they would have been better competition than the visiting Dodgers.



AMC/THE WALKING DEAD

World Record **Zombie Sighting**

October 5, 2013, 9,552 zombies were spotted on the beachfront in Asbury Park, NJ, a Guinness World Record for zombie assemblage. The sighting eclipsed the previous record, set in November, 2012 when 8,027 zombies were spotted on a pub crawl in Minnesota. Authorities do not yet know if the NJ zombie spotting was related to the 6th Annual New Jersey Zombie Walk being held in town that day.



AMC/THE WALKING DEAD

Zombie School University Allows the Undead In the Classroom

BY BREANNA ARMSTRONG

Zombies have certainly taken over pop culture from books, movies, TV shows, video games and now university curriculums? Yes, now having knowledge about zombies can get you three units closer to college graduation at the University of California, Irvine. UCI offered an online course this fall titled: Society, Science, Survival: Lessons From AMC's *The Walking Dead*, a course that touches on—you guessed it—zombies!



THINKSTOCK

Bath Salt Zombies in the Sunshine States

The short-lived popularity of “bath salts” (a designer drug) has contributed to a rise in zombie behavior. In Miami, FL, police found a naked man on a pedestrian walkway *chewing* on another man's face. The naked zombie did not cooperate with officers and was gunned down. The victim survived but was left virtually unrecognizable.

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The **Zombie** Designer Drug

Recent reports of Desomorphine abuse, also known as “krokodil”, have been reported in Phoenix, AZ. Patients who sought medical attention left doctors “extremely frightened.” And with good reason, based on krokodil’s side effects, which include St. Vitus Dance movements, garbled speech, greenish skin and occasional flesh rotting. Krokodil first gained popularity in Russia where it was “enjoyed” as a low-cost alternative to heroin.



JOSEF LAGO/AFP/GETTY IMAGES

Raleigh's **Zombie 5K**

Not just your run-of-the-mill 5k; instead, it's a 5k that takes you over a course filled with mud, obstacles and a swarm of zombies. The 5K Mud Run Zombie chase was held in April, 2013 with another scheduled for September, 2014. The event is held at the aptly-named Panic Point in Youngsville, NC.



AMC/THE WALKING DEAD

The **Walking Dead** Escape

The Walking Dead Escape, the official zombie obstacle course, was held in NYC in October 2013. Participants can take part in the activity either as a Survivor or a Walker as they navigate to an decontamination zone through Chain Link Megazone, Herd Highway, and Hospital Hell. The event will be held at the The Intrepid Sea, Air, and Space Museum.



Zombie Cell Service

A recent Sprint Ad for their “Unlimited For Life” data plan features a zombie inquiring if the plan also applies to the “undead.” The prospective customer reacts harshly to the label “zombies” but then is forced to admit that, in fact, he is a zombie when his ear falls off. The zombie hissing as he patiently waits his turn for service is priceless. **Z**

Hero for the Apocalypse

The Walking Dead star **Andrew Lincoln** discusses the challenges of working on a family drama set in hell.

BY MERRIE DESTEFANO

Born in London and possessing a degree from the Royal Academy of Dramatic Art, Andrew Lincoln already brings more to the acting table than the average television viewer might expect. And now that *The Walking Dead* has been renewed for its fifth season on AMC, Lincoln will have even more opportunities to “sink his dramatic teeth” into the role as apocalyptic-world weary Rick Grimes, a part that has made him a reigning cult icon. During the past four seasons, his character has gone from a deputy sheriff desperately seeking to reunite with his family to the unexpected leader of a rag-tag band of survivors to an embittered and broken-hearted father who wants nothing more than to protect his children.

Whatever lies ahead for *The Walking Dead*'s Rick Grimes, one thing is certain: Andrew Lincoln will continue to deliver the deep, multi-layered, dramatic performance that has helped to make the show popular.



In the beginning of the series, Rick's goals and motives were initially driven by his wife and his son.

AMC/THE WALKING DEAD

Zombies! magazine recently had the opportunity to ask him a few questions about his role on this hit television series, and we're thrilled to share his insightful answers with you.

Q: Congratulations on The Walking Dead being renewed for a fifth season!

A: Thank you! We're thrilled, we're really, really thrilled. It's so good, the atmosphere on set—it's so positive and buoyant, especially at this stage in the shooting schedule. Most of the people are incredibly exhausted by now, but it definitely lifted spirits.

Q: When you first started this program, did you ever

expect it to be this popular or to be on for five seasons?

A: I always try to enter into a job, hoping that it's going to be the best thing that I've ever done. Seldom does this—what's happened with this show—happen. I've been told by people who've worked in the business a lot longer than me that it's a once in a generation type phenomena. It certainly feels like that.

I remember vividly...when I was working with Frank Darabont on the pilot. And we were actually doing that sequence in the hospital where I wake up and I go through the hospital and see the doors, and it was a long, long 18-hour day. I remember him sidling over to me at one point and just whispering in my ear and

“It's a story about holding on to your humanity in a lawless world.”

saying, “I think we might have something very special here.” So, we sort of knew that we were heading in the right direction, but you can never second guess this kind of reaction.

Q: Do you think there will be a romantic plotline for Rick again?

A: Rick has a heck of a lot on his plate at the moment. But I do think that once stability has consolidated, there is a very strong

Worst Zombie Kill Ever

Here's what Andrew had to say when asked what was the hardest zombie scene he'd ever had to do...

"You have to be very coordinated when you do fight sequences, like the battle sequence at the beginning of season three, when we entered the prison. There were so many zombie kills and you're very heightened and you're very charged emotionally and you have to pull your hips or you have to be very, very clear about when you're striking a person, because you're right, they're human beings in make-up. So, it has to be a dance, but it has to be filled—it has to be emotionally filled. So that is always exciting, but you have to be very, very careful.

"I would say the most upsetting zombie kill was probably in the aftermath of losing Lori...because it was a moment when Rick was in an extremely dark place. I had to apologize to the zombie because I'm not sure I pulled my stabs as much as I could have. [laughs] He spoke to me the week after, he said, 'Um, I had some bruises after that day.' And I said, 'Well, don't eat my wife!'

"I have to commend everyone who plays a walker on this show. They're so committed. And without them, without their hours and their incredible work ethic, we wouldn't have this show."

GREG NICOTERO/AMC



The most upsetting zombie kill Andrew Lincoln has experienced took place when Rick met up with the walker who ate Lori's remains.

chance...the next thing you'd think about is being with someone. Rick was initially driven by his wife and his son, his family. Now he's collected this misfit bunch—this new, sort of apocalyptic, family—and they're the ones who pull him through. Day to day. And I think that certainly there will come a point where he has to open up again. He's been hurt so badly. All of these people have in this universe. I think that it's the most courageous thing that

you can possibly do—to trust and to love again, to open yourself up to that extreme pain. But certainly I think that, for the time being, you will realize that there are far more important things occupying Rick's world than romance.

Q: What was your favorite episode of TWD, from any season, and why?

A: It would have to be the pilot. I loved the scale of it, I loved the

emptiness of it, I loved the bravery of the way it was all written. It was also wonderful working and having a few extra days. We started with a fifteen day shoot, when we generally shoot eight per episode. So it felt much closer to a movie, I mean, the scale of it and the ambition of it. Not to discount any other episode that we've shot since because I think we still strive for that scale of storytelling that you get in movies. [The pilot] was such an

extraordinary journey because I had to live it through Rick's eyes, I woke up into this new world and it was what he saw. Riding into Atlanta would have to be one of the coolest weekends of my life. It was just me, a horse, and 400 zombies in downtown Atlanta. It was amazing.

Q: What would you say is the difference between you and Rick?

A: The difference? I've got more gray hair. [laughs] The funny thing is, you always hopefully draw on yourself and that's all I can draw upon emotionally and physically. I mean, he's much more certain than I am. One of the great characteristics of a leader, good or bad, is that they have certainty. When they

“ Yes, it is a zombie survival horror, but it's more like Lord of the Flies. ”



GENE PAGE/AMC D

Don't expect the undead threat on *The Walking Dead* to ease up anytime soon. From walkers to airborne viruses to dangerous nearby communities, survival in this end times world is a minute-by-minute struggle.



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“It was just me, a horse, and 400 zombies.”

Andrew says that riding a horse into post-apocalyptic Atlanta was one of the coolest weekends of his life.

make a decision, they stick with it. I think a lot of people, especially in moments of extreme stress, people follow or fall in line in with somebody that's certain. I think that's one of the over-riding characteristics that probably makes him such a good leader, respected whether or not his decisions are good or bad. And I'm not certain. I'm one of these people that is indecisive, it takes me awhile to choose or settle upon jobs or characters I want to play. I take a long time to decide things.

Q: Why are people fascinated by zombies?

A: You know, I'm not sure. In Europe, we don't have the zombie tradition. The Europeans have vampires or Frankensteins, all of those kinds of incredible stories. I think there's something very cool about zombies in that they don't pose a direct threat. The key meaning of *The Walking Dead* was always that it's a survivalist story. It was a story about holding on to your humanity in a lawless world. It's a family drama set in hell. The zombies are very much a backdrop to that.

Certainly in the first season, they're not a direct threat, because we don't know what they are. The second season is very much a story about ideology and their struggles for leadership. And the third season is very much about a clash of two societies. And this season...the theme is can you return, can you ever be the person you once were. So, it's a much more psychological journey this season. Yes, it is a

zombie survival horror, but it's more like *Lord of the Flies*. Or *The Road*.

In direct answer to your question, I don't know. You'd have to ask the fans. What I like about it...is it's the physical embodiment of our own mortality. As human beings, however much and however successful we are on this planet, we know there is one certainty, that we will meet our end. That is always present in our lives. I think there's probably something resonant in that, in the living embodiment of our mortality. **Z**

When she's not reading apocalyptic stories or watching The Walking Dead, Zombies! editor, Merrie Destefano writes her own novels about the end of the world.

With zombies peering on from a mere few yards away, Rick struggles to be a good father, provider and protector for his two children.

What's Next?

When we asked Andrew what was next for Rick in season four, he told us this...

"Rick is wrestling with his brutality. He's renounced leadership, he's stepped away from the brutality of the world for the sake of Carl and, of course, Judith. But he's caught yet again...Rick's been thrown very much into the center of things again.

"The front eight [episodes this season] and the back eight feel like almost two different seasons. So different. I can't go into any more detail than that. Certainly the over-riding story of Rick this season encapsulates the question: Can we ever come back? Can we ever come back from the things we've done—the brutality of the world—and can we be the same people we once were? That is the essential theme for Rick's journey."

AMC/THE WALKING DEAD



POWER-UP WITH A ZOMBIE

Undead threads, available now at 8-bitty.com

8-BITTY 

KNOW

W E B S I T E S

Buyer's Guide KNOW

BY ELISE PORTALE

If the zombie apocalypse were to hit tomorrow, would you be ready? You may think that a sawed-off shotgun and towel to clean up the splattered blood of your enemies is enough, but realistically, that's only the beginning of your arsenal. The undead uprising could be next week or next decade—don't wait for the morning of to prepare. Start stocking your cabinets and honing your mind with these survivalist essentials.

ZombieMart.com

PRODUCT: Zombie

Shower Curtain

WEBSITE:

www.zombiemart.com

MSRP: \$59.95

When Z Day hits, you'll be looking over your shoulder constantly, especially when you're at your most vulnerable. This bloodied shower curtain will help acclimate you to your imminent 24-7-zombie nightmare. And with dimensions at 69 inches by 70 inches, you'll be the only hunter on the block who is used to being completely surrounded.



NeatoShop

PRODUCT: Zombie Back Scratcher

WEBSITE: www.neatoshop.com

MSRP: \$29.95

A good freak-hunter is judged by his kills, and what better way to show off your ruthless double-tapping skills than with a trophy? Like a varmint hunter adorned with foxtails, this back scratcher made from the arm of a zombie is sure to instill a sense of terror into enemy survivalists. Made from a tough urethane resin, you can be sure that this scratcher will give you a hand with your unreachable itches every time.

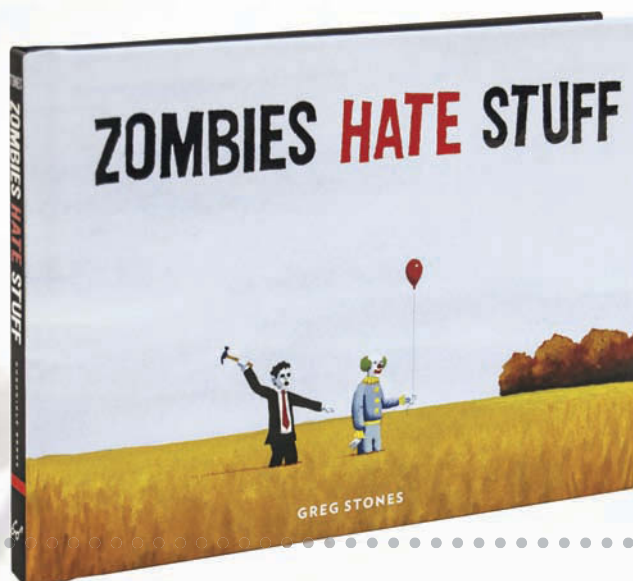
Perpetual Kid

PRODUCT: Zombies Hate Stuff

WEBSITE: www.perpetualkid.com

MSRP: \$9.99

Raising children in the zombie apocalypse could be difficult, especially when it comes time to introduce your kids to the hard stuff (e.g., corpse decapitation). With *Zombies Hate Stuff*, your problem is solved! Just snuggle near the compound bonfire with your little ones and gradually bring them into the world of undead destruction, one creative, well-illustrated death at a time.



GAMAGO

PRODUCT: Zombie Family Car Stickers

WEBSITE: store.gama-go.com

MSRP: \$8

Those soccer moms with the cute family decals on their mini-vans? You know they'll be the first to go when the undead claim the Earth. Your neighborhood is full of future freak bait that will be dying (literally!) to join your survival party. With this rear-window family tree featuring nine unique undead family members, you can ask everyone on your street, "I'm ready. Are you?"



Oakridge Hobbies

PRODUCT: "Zed the Zombie—Unrest in Piece"

WEBSITE: www.oakridgehobbies.com

MSRP: \$31.99

While you stockpile weapons and supplies, how are your kids preparing for the oncoming corpse slaughter? With "Zed the Zombie," kids can begin to know their future foes, inside and out. Players must try to put Zed back together, but you better beat the clock or else zombie parts will go flying everywhere! It's fun (and educational) for the whole family, ages 4 years and up.



Buyer's Guide

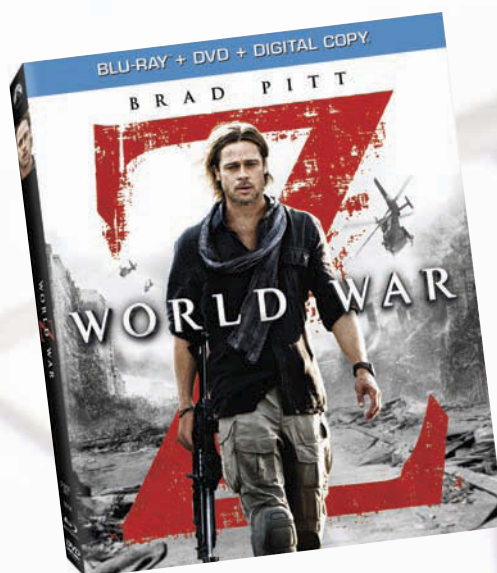
KNOW

Paramount Pictures

PRODUCT: World War Z
DVD/Blu-ray Combo Pack

WEBSITE:
www.paramount.com/movies

MSRP: \$19.67



If there's one thing that's true, it's that you'll never be a greater undead-murdering badass than Brad Pitt. But, if you add *World War Z* to your shelf, you're that much closer. With this combo pack chock full of extras and informative featurettes, by the time you've watched (and re-watched) this epic film, you'll be ready when that first zombie comes a'knockin' on your safe-house door.



Candy Crate

PRODUCT: Zombie Food

WEBSITE: www.candycrate.com

MSRP: \$7.29

If you're taking the offensive approach to surviving, actively seeking out walkers to destroy becomes your bread and butter. But everyone runs out of zombie bait (a.k.a. the whining weaklings in your survival posse) once in awhile. For those fodder-free moments, keep this delicious bag of Zombie Food on hand. Made with milk chocolate and filled with oozy red caramel, these tasty treats come in all of your prey's favorite shapes: hearts, brains and detached feet!



Engaged Media

PRODUCT: Zombie Apocalypse Survival Kit

WEBSITE: www.engagedmediamags.com

MSRP: \$17.95

Even the most skilled apocalypse survivor gets stuck in unsavory situations from time to time. Don't let the loss of your most important assets—survival party, weapons, etc.—put you out for the count. Featuring such Z Day essentials as duct tape, a compass, a razor blade, first aid supplies and more, this survival kit comes in a multi-use, compact and lightweight aluminum can. Once you pop, the survival doesn't stop!

Harco Labs

PRODUCT: Zombie Blood Energy

Potion (6 pk.)

WEBSITE: shop.harcolabs.com

MSRP: \$19.96

When it comes to surviving hordes of the walking dead, there are only two things that really matter: image and hydration. Why not keep both in check with these drinkable packs of zombie blood? Show off your ruthlessness while chugging the blood of your foes. The drink will give you a much-needed boost of energy while the lemon-lime flavor ensures that it goes down smooth.



Fishpond

PRODUCT: Zombie Hunter 2012: 'The Walking Dead' Official TV Video Game

WEBSITE: www.fishpond.com

MSRP: \$89.95

The zombie hunter's holy grail is here: the official game for AMC's *The Walking Dead*. This versatile game requires no gaming console and plugs into any TV so that all Z Day preppers can get their practice in. As the sole player, experience the game's many modes, including Story Mode, Horde Mode, Free Play and various bonus modes, and hone your zombie-slaying skills daily!



BEHIND THE CAMERA

Meet Five Directors Who Helped Shape the Zombie Genre

BY SEAN COOPER

Over the years we've seen our fair share of bloody zombie movies grace the silver screen. Some have been low budget and revolutionary, while others have the luxury of a multi-million dollar Hollywood studio. It's important to remember the greatest zombie flicks wouldn't be possible without the director. From Edgar Wright to George Romero, let's take a look at the best directors to put a pulse in the walking dead and revolutionize the industry.



Teasing its inspiration—cult classic, *Dawn of the Dead*—this zombie film by director Edgar Wright blends the unlikely genres of romance and horror.

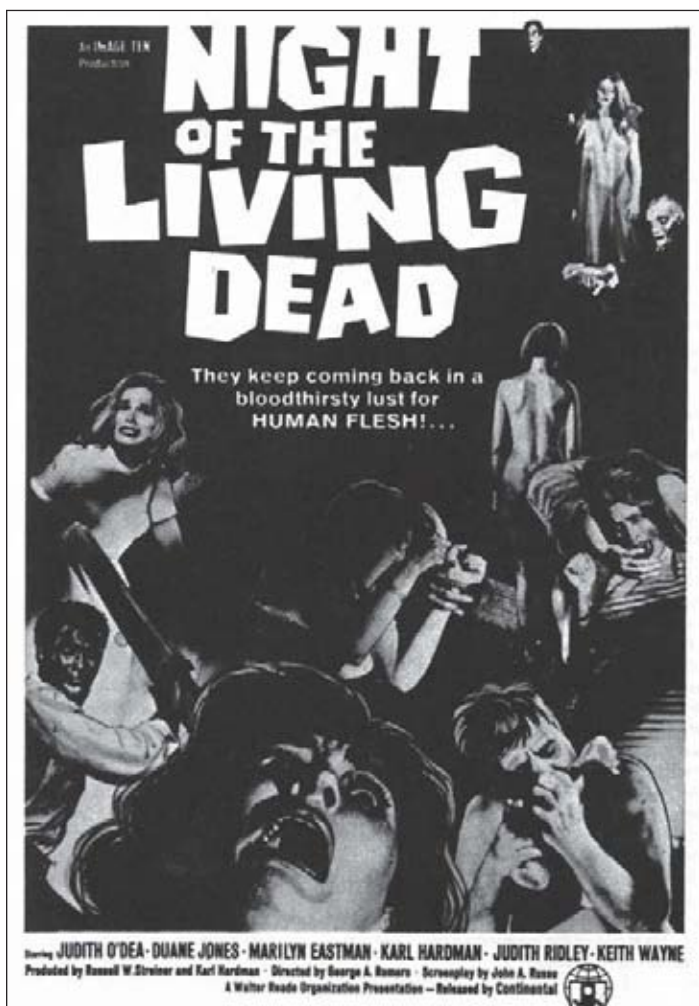
1 **Edgar Wright—*Shaun of the Dead***

There's no better way to pay homage to a great movie than creating your very own parody. Dubbed “a romantic comedy with zombies,” *Shaun of the Dead* was a comedic take on the zombie movie genre. Dealing with family can be stressful, so why not throw in some zombies to lighten the mood? As you could probably guess, its tongue-and-cheek title is inspired by the cult classic, *Dawn of the Dead*, and legendary directors like George Romero and Sam Raimi. If you enjoy an edgy, yet not-so-serious style, Wright is right up your alley!

ILLUSTRATION BY ANGELO SCALISE



ANCEP
-SCALY-



George A. Romero's amazingly frightening *Night of the Living Dead* stands the test of time, both transcending its low budget and black and white format, and providing inspiration for the zombie apocalypse.

2 George Romero—*Night of the Living Dead*

George Romero helped revolutionize the film industry with the cult classic, *Night of the Living Dead*. Despite its measly budget of only \$114,000, the film was an international success, grossing \$18 million worldwide. Billed as just another cheesy Saturday afternoon horror flick, children were horrified at what they saw. In the film, five innocent people are trapped in an isolated farmhouse and attacked by the living dead (aka zombies). You can see much of the sci-fi and horror style of the 1950s in Romero's work. This was the first of six frightening Dead films Romero would go on to direct.



Tips for Hosting a Zombie Movie Marathon

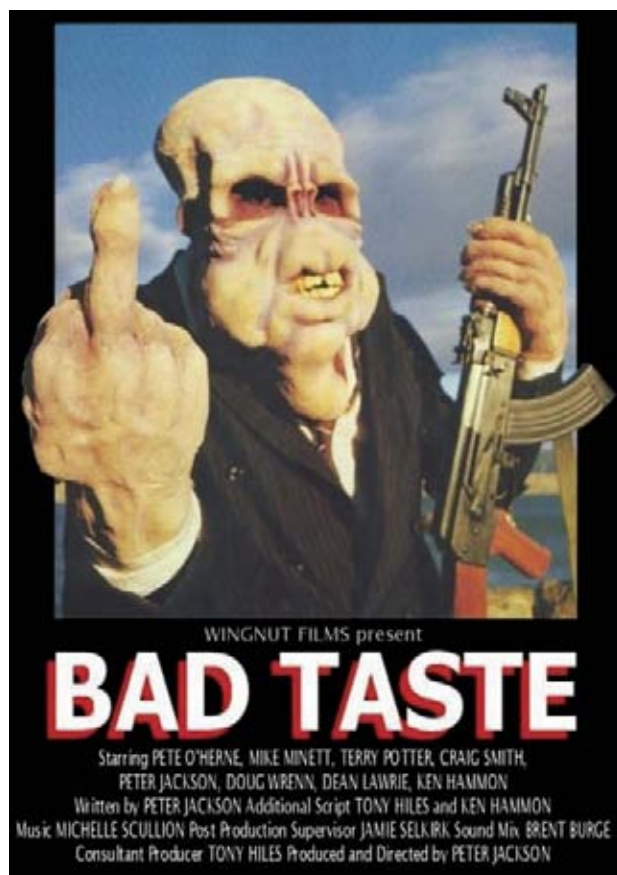
By Merrie Destefano

- Make sure you have a variety of DVDs on hand, from cult classic to blood-and-guts horror.
- Keep the remote control handy, so you can rewind the best scenes and watch them over and over.
- Take a few minutes during one of the classics and watch it with the sound turned off. Allow your friends to insert their own dialogue and comments, ala *Mystery Science Theater 3000*.
- Make sure to have snacks on hand. Nothing makes a crowd hungrier than watching the undead munch their way through human flesh. Suggestions: Bloody flesh (barbecue chicken), guts (chow mien noodles), fingers (baked crescent rolls wrapped around hot dogs), and—for the adults in the crowd—zombie cocktails (rum mixed with assorted fruit juices.)
- Take a break between movies for a “seventh inning stretch,” except use that time to practice your best zombie shuffle. Give prizes to guests who do the best undead impression.
- Dress up as zombies! Face makeup, colored contact lenses and ripped thrift store clothes go a long way toward creating a frightening appearance. Consider shambling through your neighborhood after your movie marathon, thus creating your own version of an impromptu zombie walk.

3 **Peter Jackson— Bad Taste, Lord of the Rings**

Before the world-renowned film franchise *Lord of the Rings* was created, there was *Bad Taste*. Even great film directors need to cut their directing teeth somewhere. *Bad Taste* is a sci-fi splatter comedy horror, directed, written and even co-starring, Peter Jackson. When aliens invade the land down under, New Zealand, it's up to four men to stop the extraterrestrial from turning the human race into fast food chow. You can see Jackson's trademark styles, including his attention to detail and multi-angle shots, at their beginning.

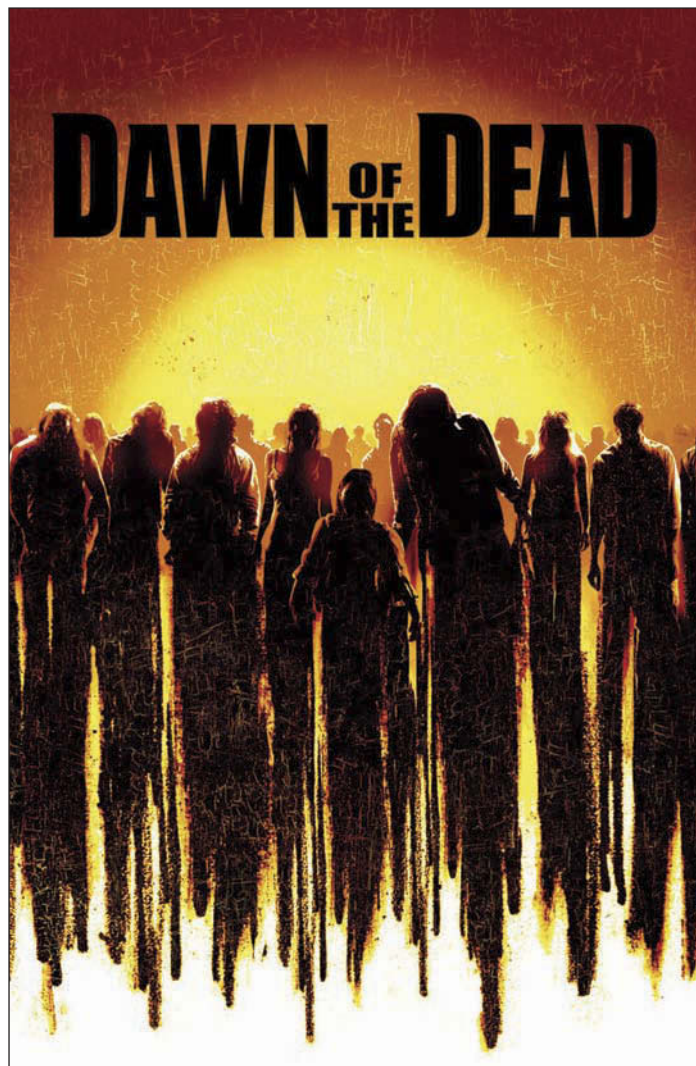
Peter Jackson may have gone on to direct the award-winning *The Lord of the Rings* series, but his career began with movies like this.



4 Zack Snyder—*Dawn of the Dead*

There's a lot of pressure making your film debut, let alone in the highly anticipated sequel, *Dawn of the Dead*. Zack Snyder was more than up to the task, delivering a rendition that would even make the great George Romero proud. There's no place to hide for an unfortunate group of survivors in a mall in Milwaukee, Wisconsin, surrounded by flesh-eating zombies in this 2004 remake. Although it received critical acclaim, many were quick to criticize the zombies' sudden ability to run fast and swiftly, including Romero himself. Nevertheless, it's a worthy remake and a zombie movie worth adding to your collection.

Remaking a movie originally done by Romero isn't easy, but Zack Snyder proved his worth in this 2004 version of *Dawn of the Dead*.



Living Dead Film Series

Written and directed by George Romero and John Russo, the Living Dead series spans nearly five decades. Watch as humans survive the zombie apocalypse, starting in black and white, all the way up to the modern day silver screen.

Night of the Living Dead (1968)
Dawn of the Dead (1978)
Day of the Dead (1985)
Land of the Dead (2005)
Diary of the Dead (2007)
Survival of the Dead (2009)



From the moment the movie theater lights go down and the projector starts to roll, zombie fans are escorted into an apocalyptic world—often created by one of the directors mentioned in this story.

THINKSTOCK



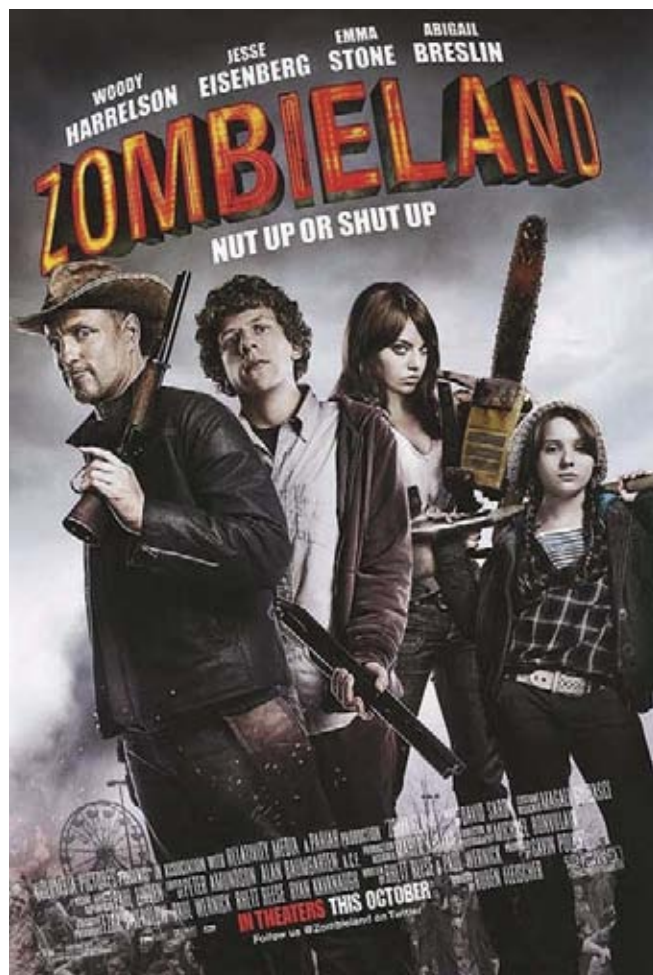
THINKSTOCK

“Being scared is part of the fun.” That’s what you need to tell your date when you really want to see the latest zombie flick.

5 Ruben Fleischer—*Zombieland*

NOT only did he have a Hollywood budget, he managed to make a memorable film about the undead to boot. The zombie and comedy genres yet again cross paths in this 2009 critically acclaimed zombie flick. *Zombieland* was the highest grossing zombie movie at the time, collecting over \$60.9 million worldwide (it was soon surpassed by *World War Z*). The film’s plot is pretty standard—human survivors band together in search of a safe haven from zombies—but it’s the witty writing that really makes it stand out. **Z**

While working as a carpenter, Sean Cooper once clunked a zombie in the head with a brick. It worked, but he doesn’t want to see one that close again. Ever.



Ruben Fleischer’s blockbuster hit blends comedy and horror as the characters battle for their lives during a post-apocalyptic, cross-country road trip.

COMIC-CON INTERNATIONAL: THE ZOMBIE EXPERIENCE

The Ultimate Pop Culture, Mega Festival
Is Now a Haven for Zombies

BY CAROLYN KOH

Comic-Con is a pop culture mega festival and where better to immerse yourself in the zombie experience? From movie and television presentation to expert panels, from almost endless rows of merchandise, books and art to unique exhibition floor experiences, there's something for every zombie fan and the popularity is only growing.

This year's San Diego Comic-Con International saw the return of makeup artist Liza Macawil at *The Walking Dead* video game booth. The zombie makeup sessions were free, but the entire weekend's sign-up list was filled up by Thursday Preview Night.

POPULAR TELEVISION SERIES

AMC recreated the West Georgia Correctional Facility from their television series *The Walking Dead* right in the middle of the main exhibit hall. This is the prison where series lead character Rick Grimes and his fellow survivors holed up to hold off the zombie hordes and the evil Governor in the show's third season this past spring. Photo opportunities galore were available for show goers who lined up to pose.



F.HARMON ©SDCC

At any point in time, the crowd could thin to reveal a zombie, ready and willing to chase you.




MERRIE DESTEFANO

One of the wonderful things about walking the exhibition floor is discovering the work done by talented artists, like Hugo Award winning artist John Picacio.

Zombie Walk: San Diego

SDzombiewalk.com

San Diego organizes several events a year around the city. These events are free to participate in, but many have benefitted the San Diego Food Bank, Toys for Tots, and local military families. If you are interested in participating in a zombie walk, check out the site for their next event. Remember to also read the FAQ and the safety guidelines. The guidelines are intended to keep events not only fun, but as safe and pleasant as possible for both participants and the public. All you have to do is show up and walk!



The zombie madness starts even before you walk through conference center front door. Here, a member of the undead is seen shuffling through the Gaslight District of San Diego.

Tips for Surviving Comic-Con

By Merrie Destefano

Imagine a small city—filled with 130,000 people who love science fiction and fantasy, half of them dressed in costumes—with an exhibition hall so crowded you often can't see past the person in front of you, and you have a good idea of what Comic-Con is like. Add to that the rush of adrenaline when you stumble across someone famous (like I did when the crowd suddenly parted to reveal Ray Bradbury, as he was being ushered to his next event.)

David Glanzer, the director of marketing and public relations for Comic-Con International, says, "We try to put on a show we want to attend ourselves."

But there's so much to do and see that a first-time attendee can easily become confused, lost or dehydrated. Below are Glanzer's tips for surviving Comic-Con and having a great time:

WEAR COMFORTABLE SHOES. You're going to be on your feet for 8 to 12 hours, walking on concrete floors, standing in line, and riding up and down escalators. If your costume includes high heels or platform shoes, carry a pair of tennis shoes with you. Your feet will thank you later.

STAY HYDRATED. It's easy to get caught up in the excitement and the visual wonders that surround you. Before you know it, hours have passed since your last glass of water, and now you're standing in a killer line that wraps around the outside of the conference center, beneath a brutal midday sun. Carry a bottle of water with you. Always.

PICK A TIME AND PLACE TO MEET YOUR FRIENDS. You will lose the people you came with. It's a fact. They'll be next to you and then they'll be gone. So plan ahead, knowing that you might get separated, and have a meeting place set up beforehand.

REMEMBER TO EAT. That warning about drinking water applies to eating too. Take time out between events to grab a sandwich or slice of pizza. You can always munch it down while you're standing in your next line.

EXCHANGE PHONE NUMBERS. Don't wait until the person who drove you to Comic-Con has been swallowed alive by the crowd to wonder how you'll get home. Get his or her phone number before you walk through the conference center door. And remember to charge your phone the night before.

FAMOUS AUTHORS

Max Brooks, author of *World War Z* and *The Zombie Survival Guide* was candid about how he had not expected to like the movie adaption of his book after viewing the trailer. "I was expecting to hate it," he told reporters, because it was so different from his book, but instead, due to the difference, it was actually intense and enjoyable. Brooks was at Comic-Con talking about and signing copies of his new graphic novel *The Extinction Parade* as well as participating in a panel on a new Xbox video game, *Dead Rising 3*.

NEW VIDEO GAMES

Speaking of *Dead Rising 3*, who's ready for it? Set some ten years after the events of the previous title, players will find a bigger world than before and play the role of a new character, Nick Ramos. The Xbox One hardware will allow for better visuals and faster load times. Expect heaps more zombies on the screen and explosive, gory action in this title.

ZOMBIES ON THE STREETS

The highlight for zombie fans though, will have to be the annual Zombie Walk organized by San Diego Zombie Walk which saw their 7th year this 2013. Local participants and show goers from other states walked through the San Diego Gaslight District, a few blocks from the convention center where Comic-Con is held. The Walk is an inclusive event and organizers invite zombies of all ages and backgrounds to participate, encouraging anyone who is interested in letting go of reality for a couple hours to come and have a great time—whether they wish to dress up as zombies or attend as humans.

COMIC-CON NEW YORK

What about Comic-Con New York City? Although a smaller Con compared to San Diego, zombie fans were no less thick on the ground and AMC introduced a new character for their fourth season. NYCC also celebrated *The Walking Dead: A Decade of Dead*, which included an art showcase and the

The Walking Dead Escape

Thewalkingdeadescape.com

Comic-Con 2013 saw the second *The Walking Dead* Escape at Petco Park in San Diego and the first at Pier 86 in New York City. Advance registration and \$75 gave zombie fans a chance to run the official obstacle course and live The Walking Dead experience. Lucky participants got to run, hide, climb, crawl and slide their way through hordes of zombies. But just getting to the Evac Zone didn't get you a free ticket out of there. After that heart-pounding run, you still had to clear quarantine testing. Did you actually make it or would you join the undead? Zombie fans can participate in two ways. You can test your skills and stamina by running the zombie gauntlet, or you can be a zombie, a member of the walking dead. Check the website for the next event and register in advance to make sure you have your slot in this experience.

world premiere of a 20-minute documentary chronicling the evolution of the zombie franchise from comic book to the TV show. **Z**

Besides writing articles for *Zombies! Magazine*, Carolyn Koh regularly attends Comic-Con, where she studies passing zombies and plans to survive the apocalypse.



Sometimes you get lucky and the flesh-eating monster ends up on other side of a chain-link fence.

A.TURKELTAUB

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—Mike Haller, President, Survival Bags, Inc.
Former U.S. Marine, Police Officer, Volunteer Firefighter & Paramedic



KNOW

PANDEMIC PANIC

What if one of these five pandemics turned into a zombie apocalypse?

BY SUZANNE BURMEISTER

When pandemics spread, whole villages can perish within a matter of days.

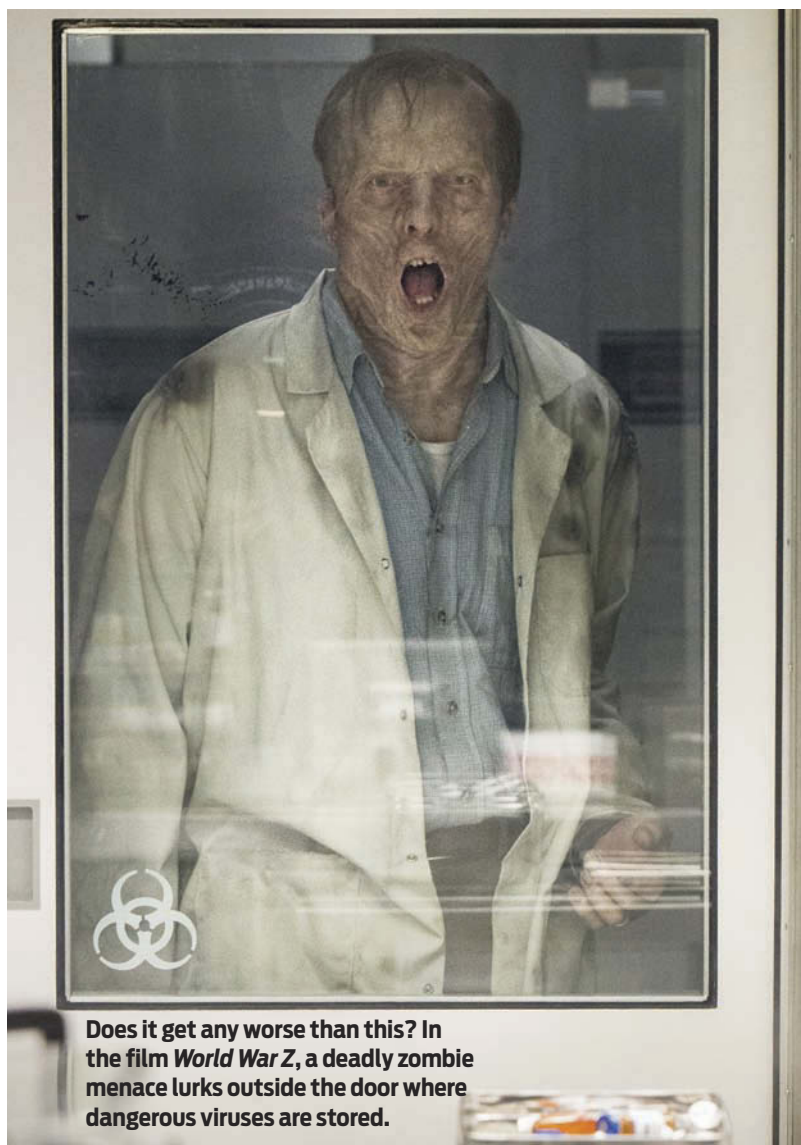
THINKSTOCK

I magine what you would do if the 1919 Spanish flu attacked today with the same devastating effect it had in the early 20th century—and the world around you turned into a zombie apocalypse.

A critical tenant of AMC's *The Walking Dead* is that to become a zombie, one must die. Everyone is infected. Keep that in mind as you examine how the world has suffered from major pandemics throughout history.

Check out these five worst worldwide plagues, their causes and effects, and consider the zombie dangers therein.

“ *The rapid deaths meant funeral parlors were overwhelmed.* **”**



Does it get any worse than this? In the film *World War Z*, a deadly zombie menace lurks outside the door where dangerous viruses are stored.

JAAP BUITENDIJK/PARAMOUNT/World War Z



In 1919, two men are seen both wearing and proclaiming the efficiency of flu masks. This photo was taken in Paris after World War I, during the Spanish flu epidemic.

TOPICAL PRESS AGENCY/GETTY IMAGES

1 INFLUENZA

DEATH TOLL: In less than two years, an estimated 20-100 million people around the world were dead from type A influenza, wiping out 2.5% to 5% of the world's population. By 1919, 25% of Americans were infected with influenza.

CAUSE: The disease was widely spread in the air from coughing and sneezing, from contact with saliva, feces and blood. Many believed this was Mother Nature's response to the death and destruction which occurred during the Great War. The end of the war certainly helped to spread the disease, as millions of infected soldiers brought it back to their home countries when the fighting was over. Surprisingly, many flu victims were young and otherwise healthy adults.

EFFECTS: Symptoms included fever, muscle aches (especially in the back and legs), headaches, coughing, and overall weakness. As was mentioned earlier, it is for these reasons that many people perished without any treatment. They thought they had a common cold, and in less than a day, they'd be gone. Severe pneumonia was also a symptom of influenza infection, which would easily claim the lives of the already weakened victims.

Zombie Danger with Influenza

The rapid deaths meant funeral parlors were overwhelmed, and bodies had to be temporarily stored in places like school auditoriums. Imagine if Mother Nature had gone an extra step and re-animated the dead. An already vulnerable world in the wake of WWI would have easily collapsed.

Flu strains change all the time, so if you're not someone who gets a yearly flu vaccine, you could find yourself in for a very grim future.



THINKSTOCK

2 SMALLPOX

DEATH TOLL: More than 300 million people worldwide in the 20th century alone; most of them native inhabitants of the Americas.

CAUSE: Two virus variants named Variola major and Variola minor. The deadlier form, V. major, has a mortality rate of 30–35%, while V. minor causes a milder form of disease called alastrim and kills 1% of its victims.

EFFECTS: Long-term side-effects for survivors include the characteristic skin scars. Occasional side effects include blindness due to corneal ulcerations and infertility in male survivors. Following the incubation period, a sudden onset of flu-like signs and symptoms occurs. These include:

Fever

Overall discomfort

Headache

Severe fatigue

Severe back pain

Sometimes vomiting, diarrhea or both

A few days later, flat, red spots appear first on the infected person's face, hands and forearms, and later on his/her trunk. Within a day or two, many of these lesions turn into small blisters filled with clear fluid, which then turns into pus. Scabs begin to form eight to nine days later and eventually fall off, leaving deep, pitted scars.

The rash is usually most noticeable on the palms of his/her hands and the soles of his/her feet. Lesions also develop in the mucous membranes of his/her nose and mouth and quickly turn into sores that break open, spreading the virus into his/her saliva.

NOTE: After successful vaccination campaigns throughout the 19th and 20th centuries, the WHO certified the eradication of smallpox in 1979. To this day, smallpox is the only human infectious disease to have been completely eradicated from nature.

This preserved human foot shows the devastation of smallpox. Part of an exhibit at The National Museum of Health and Science, located in Silver Spring, MD.



LINDA DAVIDSON/GETTY IMAGES

“ Suppose the vaccination that we’ve been led to believe eradicated smallpox was actually a hoax. ”

Zombie Danger with Smallpox

In *World War Z* (novel) by Max Brooks, the media turned the zombie virus into a bad strain of rabies, and profiteers created fake strains of vaccines, the most notable of which was “Phalanx.” Suppose the vaccination that we’ve been led to believe eradicated smallpox was actually a hoax, created by conspiracy.

Another situation would be if people stopped vaccinating for chicken pox, since it’s thought to be eradicated—only to have it break out again. In that case, if you weren’t vaccinated, you could catch this virus as easily as anyone else.

Once your neighbors start to display the characteristic red spots and scars, you would know that they’re heading toward death—and potentially toward the transformation into zombies, as well. Time to hunker down and prepare to survive.

3 BLACK PLAGUE

DEATH TOLL: In the four years between 1347 and 1351, 75 million people died.

CAUSE: The Black Death was caused by a bacterium called *Yersinia pestis*, or the plague. Stories vary as to where the disease started, but some believe that it began in the lungs of the bobac variety of marmot in China. Fleas would then bite the marmots and would subsequently infect every animal they would bite afterwards, especially rats. These diseased rats and fleas followed merchants in ships as they sailed along trade routes across Asia and into Europe.

EFFECTS: The plague manifested itself in three forms: bubonic, pneumonic, and septicemic. Sufferers of the bubonic plague would develop swollen lymph nodes or buboes on their necks, armpits, and groin. These skin bubbles would ooze blood and puss, and would turn black as the skin decayed. Sufferers would usually die within a week. Pneumonic plague would infect the lungs causing victims to suffocate or drown, and the septicemic plague is a form of blood poisoning, which rots the extremities and turns the skin black.



Fleas and rats inadvertently worked in tandem to help spread one of the worst plagues in human history: the Black Death.

THINKSTOCK

Zombie Danger with Black Death

With a week's transformation from healthy person to death—and zombie emergence—you might have a chance to prepare. Abandon those who display the swollen lymph nodes, even if they are loved ones. However, with animals and fleas carrying this disease, you may have an issue hunting for meat in the wild. Time to become vegetarian.

4 CHOLERA

DEATH TOLL: During the 19th century alone Asia, Europe, Africa, and North America all reported death tolls, from the hundreds of thousands to the millions, as a result of cholera. India got hit the hardest however, with estimated deaths of nearly 40 million people.

CAUSE: When a human eats food or drinks water that has been infected with the bacterium *Vibrio cholerae*, he or she can be dead in less than 4 hours without the proper treatment.

EFFECTS: The cholera disease attacks the lining of the small intestine and causes incredible amounts of diarrhea, vomiting, fever, dehydration, a critical drop in blood pressure, exhaustion, and death.

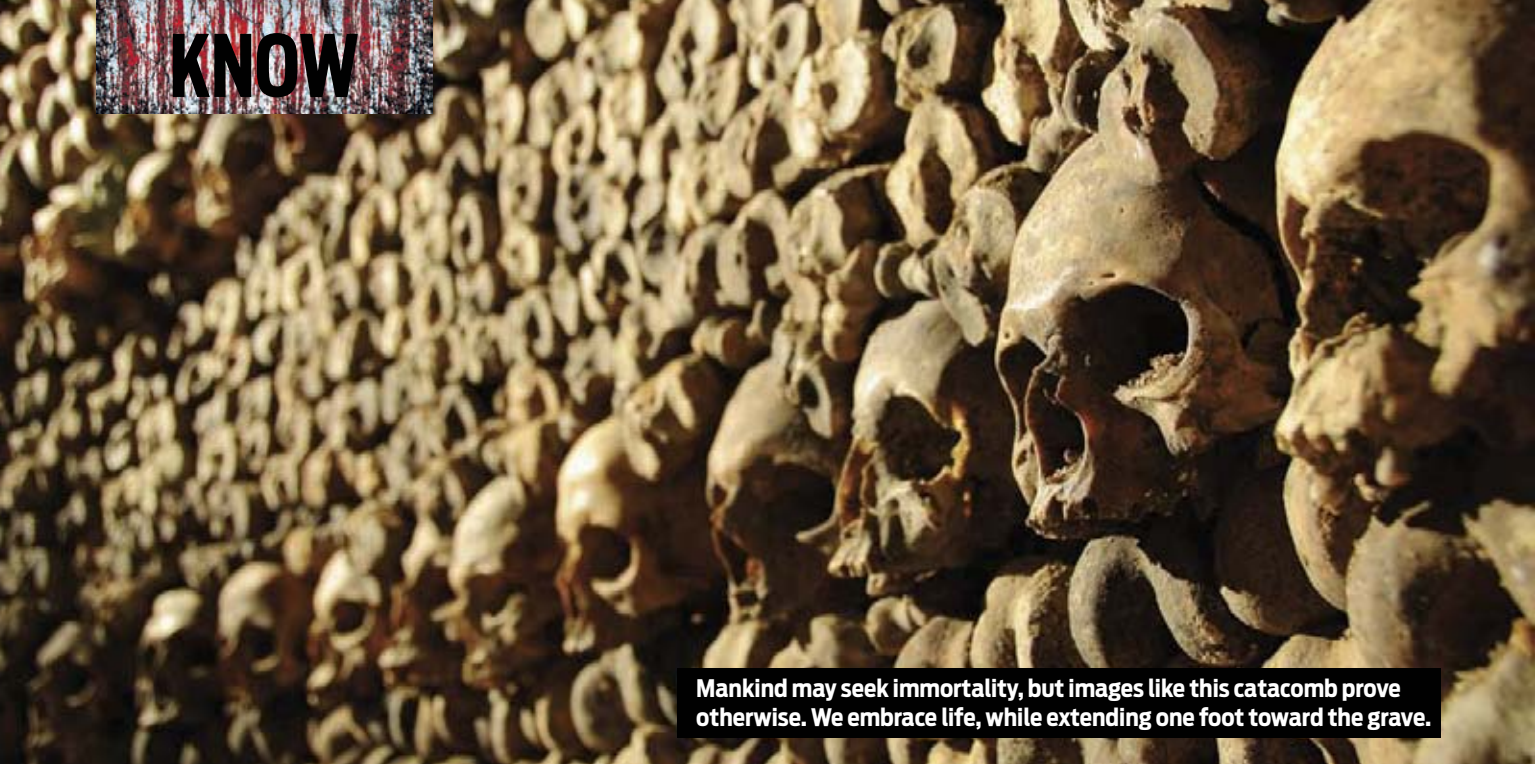


You can't see the bacteria that causes cholera with the naked eye, but if you partake of infected food or water, you could be dead within four hours.

THINKSTOCK

Zombie Danger with Cholera

This is, by far, the swiftest attacking pandemic. Imagine your good friend Sally, who woke up with a chipper disposition, contracted cholera through bad water at 2 p.m. By 6 p.m., she dies—and then becomes her zombie version. Similar occurrences happen all over the globe. The population would be overrun in no time, meaning your survival would be extra difficult—especially considering the food and water is infected.



Mankind may seek immortality, but images like this catacomb prove otherwise. We embrace life, while extending one foot toward the grave.

THINKSTOCK

5 MALARIA

DEATH TOLL: While the malaria pandemic has spread to the Americas and various parts of Asia, 85-90% of the fatalities occur in sub-Saharan Africa, where the parasite kills over one million people per year. Plasmodium has co-existed with humans for over 10,000 years.

CAUSE: Mosquitoes kill more people than any famine, tsunami, earthquake, and war combined. A tiny bite from this insect is all it takes to infect someone with Plasmodium, a nasty little parasite.

EFFECTS: This parasite multiplies in the liver and then goes on to infect the red blood cells. If gone untreated, malaria can kill its victim in less than two weeks, disrupting the blood supply to vital organs.

Suzanne Burmeister is very much alive and well and living on the Easy Coast. Z

“ A tiny bite from this insect is all it takes... ”



THINKSTOCK

Insect repellent may be your only recourse if an epidemic of malaria spreads, causing a dreaded zombie pandemic.

Zombie Danger with Malaria

You have no way to wipe out mosquitos, but you can light citronella candles and douse yourself in insect repellent. You may find these supplies becoming scarce as more people learn what causes malaria, so you better have something to barter with if you want to survive.



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WITH HALF QUAD, FREE FLOAT MID-LENGTH HANDGUARD
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LAR-15 LEF-T

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THE ART OF THE UNDEAD

How to Draw Zombies Reveals Tips for
Creating Your Own Zombie Horde

BY MARCUS GOODYEAR

“The Zombie: to
know him is
to fear him.”

Thus begins *How to Draw
Zombies* by Mike Butkus
and Merrie Destefano.

Why, exactly, do we fear zombies? It's more than the reminder of our own mortality—vampires and mummies remind us of that. It's more than the gore or the hopelessness of an approaching horde. It's even more than the apocalypse itself.

We fear zombies because they've lost the ability to create. They can't reason. They can't dream. They can't draw. Our creativity makes us human, and it separates us from both the apes and the undead.

While zombies can't buy a book titled, *How to Draw the Living*, the living can buy this book, created by Butkus and Destefano. When we buy



The final step in Mike's zombie beauty queen shows an undead glamor girl and the contrast between her decaying flesh and her once sultry appearance.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 42

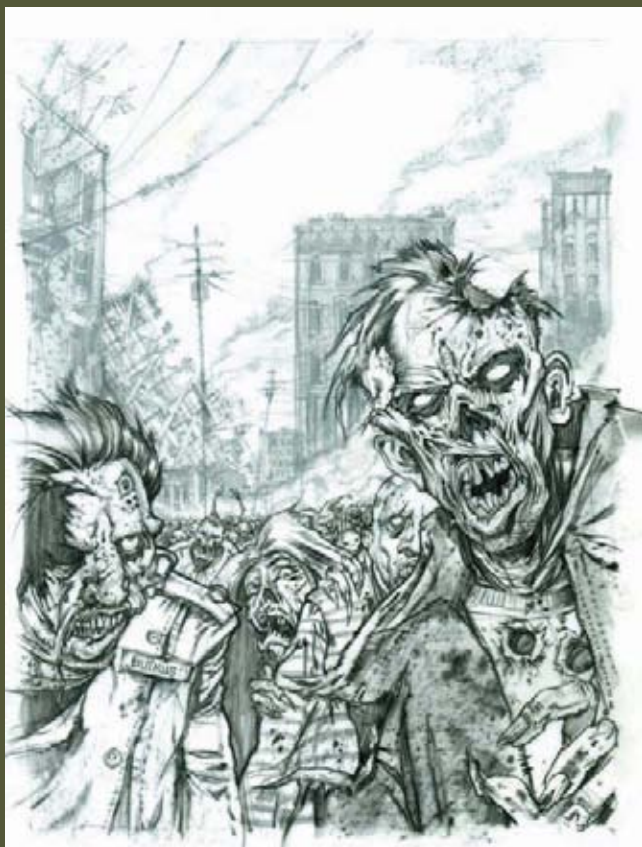
ALL IMAGES COURTESY OF WALTER FOSTER PUBLISHING



In this image, you see Mike Butkus's studio, where his desk is set up with multiple computer monitors.

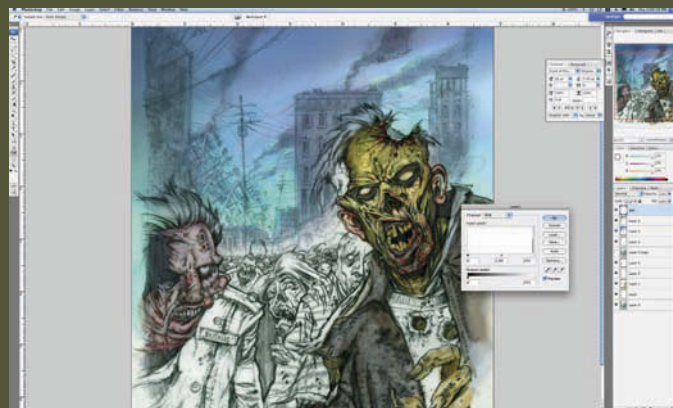


Mike goes through many stages as he works on his illustrations. Here, you can see him applying a mixture of gesso and water to the image.



The process begins with a sketch done on vellum paper. This is the point where the artist creates his composition, both foreground and background. Things can always change later, but at this point the overall image needs to be strong.

The final result of Mike's great zombie apocalypse is both chilling and beautiful. Note the glowing fires in the building windows and the lightning that cracks the sky. At this point, the main zombie doesn't merely have a chunk missing from his skull—his head is now on fire. No one is safe in this end-of-the-world scenario, not even the zombies themselves.



Mike has scanned his original drawing into Photoshop, where he now manipulates the color scheme.



Three zombie faces are shown in the background. The zombie on the left is screaming with its mouth wide open. The zombie in the center has blood smeared on its face and is looking down. The zombie on the right is smiling with a menacing expression.

UNDEAD APOCALYPSE™

AIRSOFT DEFENSE



DEFEND YOURSELF AT CROSMANUNDEAD.COM

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 38

it, when we read it, and when we use it to illustrate our fears on the page or the computer screen, we prove that we are not becoming the thing we fear.

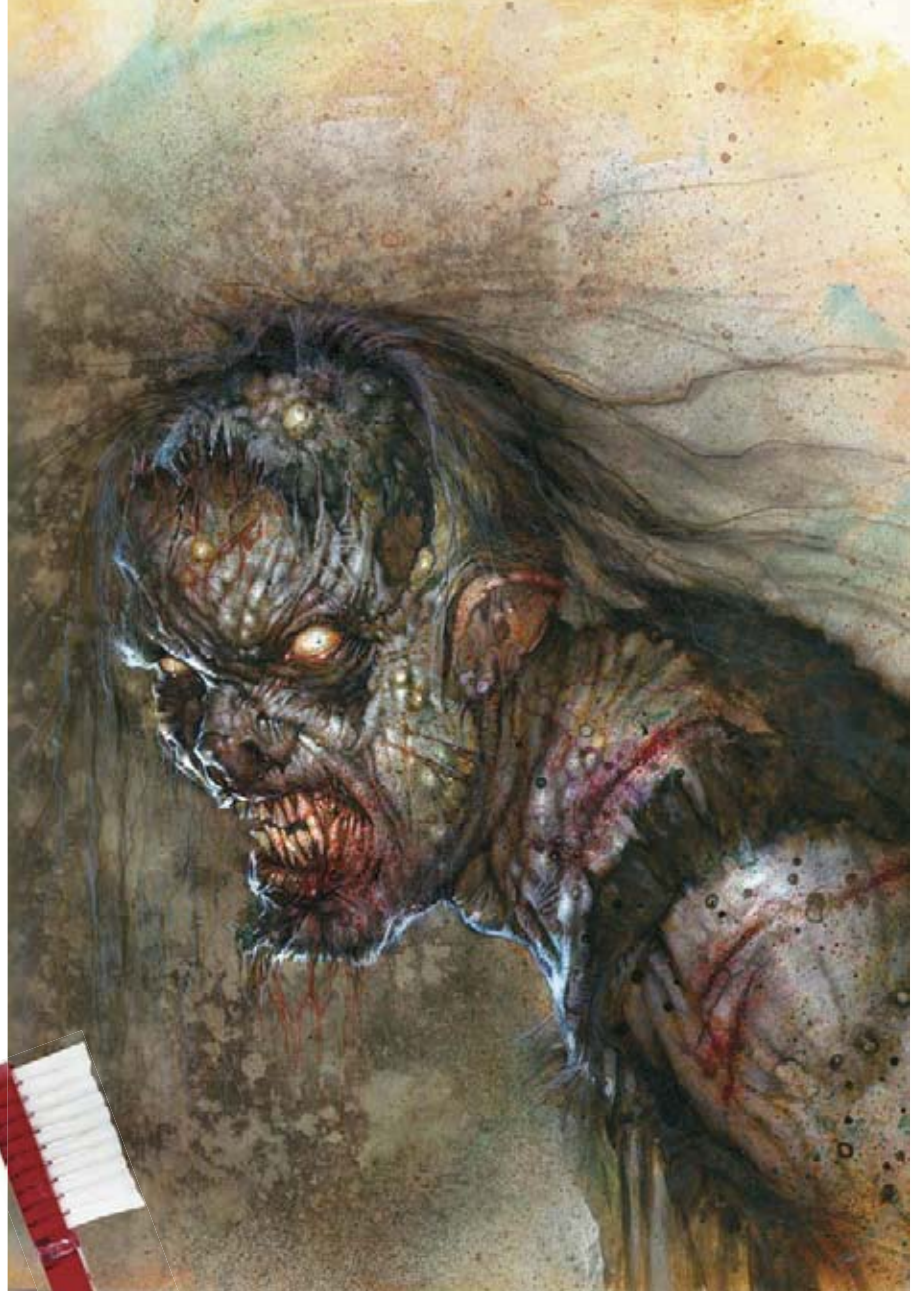
Of course, that doesn't make the exquisite art of this book any less scary. As my 9-year-old son said when he saw the book over my shoulder, "Holy crap, Dad! That is the most awesomest thing I have ever seen. Can I read that when you are done?"

I said, no—because it was late and a school night.

But I know he will enjoy the four sections of this book: *Zombie Basics*, *Drawing Zombies*, *Painting Zombies*, and *Digital Illustration*. The tome reads like a horror coffee table book, and it is more visually rewarding than any glossy collection of landscapes. The text is light and succinct, with just the right blend of history, wit, and creepy anecdotes. What else would you expect from Merrie Destefano, editor of *Zombies!* magazine?

As much as I adore Destefano's voice, Michael Butkus brings the meat to the project. One of the top entertainment illustrators and concept artists since 1986, Butkus has been involved in the production of more than 1,500 films and series. All that experience means some incredibly professional advice about artistic processes.

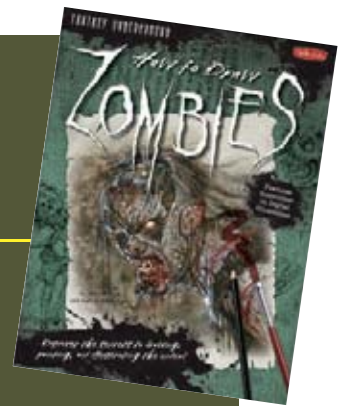
My son was transfixed. Any other book with this kind of detail and professionalism might have seemed boring to him, but zombies motivated him to take the instructions seriously. Each of the 15 zombie projects show so many steps in the process, so many evolutions of the work from concept drawings to completed horror, that the book gives permission to budding artists to take as much time as they need to polish their work to perfection.



The wicked zombie portrait is finished. Mike used a toothbrush to splatter red paint on the zombie's wounds to get the appearance of fresh blood.

How to Draw Zombies
*is sure to bring your
imagination to life.*

How to Draw Zombies by Mike Butkus and Merrie Destefano.
Published by Walter Foster. \$19.95.
ISBN: 13: 978-1-60058-197-1.



And the pictures are worth studying. The Grave Zombie offers solid lessons in perspective. The Wicked Zombie Portrait demonstrates the power of color. A Voodoo Queen doubles as a lesson in production sketching and character design. The Misty Grave Zombie teaches lessons in lighting.

Whether you are looking for a collection of excellent illustrations or inspiration for your own artistic efforts, *How to Draw Zombies* is sure to bring your imagination to life. ☑

Marcus Goodyear is Senior Editor of The High Calling. He lives with his wife and two children in Kerrville, Texas, which everyone knows will be the location of humanity's last stand against the undead.

How to Tell if Your Best Friend is a Zombie

By Merrie Destefano

1. She walks with a shuffle.
2. She doesn't cry when her boyfriend breaks up with her.
3. His hair starts to fall out in clumps and his breath smells worse than ever.
4. He's hungry all the time, but never wants to go out for pizza. Even if you're buying.
5. She offers to bury your dead cat. But your cat isn't dead.
6. She starts saying things like, "Aaaaaarrrrrrggggg" and "Uuummmpppphh."
7. He doesn't remember the answers in Algebra. Doesn't even remember what Algebra is.
8. One of his fingers falls off while he's writing notes.
9. She starts to hang out with a different crowd. They all stare at you and drool when you walk past.
10. She breaks into your house at midnight and tries to eat your little brother.

Reprinted with permission from *How To Draw Zombies* by Mike Butkus and Merrie Destefano, page 40, published by Walter Foster.

SURVIVE THE UNDEAD APOCALYPSE



Zombies, Zombies and Zombies!
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THE DRAUGR

A brief history of one of the creepiest and most well documented zombies of all—the blue-skinned, Viking draugr.

BY WILLIAM BONIN

The draugr: Perfumed in the stench of death, able to change into any size or shape, possessing super-villain strength and, of course, he was Norse.

This ninth-century Viking zombie, which took its name from the Norse word for “ghost,” may have influenced the 17th-century Haitian notion that zombies were somehow unquiet dead but certainly not completely alive. But the similarities end there, for the draugr walked the land of the living with a terrifying arsenal of powers, hell-bent on mayhem, seeking terror and revenge against his enemies.

HUNGER FOR FLESH

The Vikings believed that death in battle bought you a one-way ticket to Valhalla—the ultimate beer hall—but the fate of those who didn’t die in battle was a bit more unsettling. Denied entry to Valhalla, the not quite dead were forced away from their families and friends and became, quite understandably, very resentful of the living. Hence, their hunger for life led to a constant hunger for flesh.

Even if he died in battle, amidst his fellow warriors, the journey from life to death was a solitary one.



THINKSTOCK



Vikings believed that those warriors who died in battle were assured entrance into Valhalla, a boisterous afterlife filled with drinking and fighting.

THINKSTOCK

“ A draugr could always be recognized by his blue skin. ”

In an ancient Viking tale, the brothers Aran and Asmund made a pact that the remaining brother would remain with the first brother to die, inside the burial mound for three days. Asmund was horrified when he witnessed the late Aran eat a hawk and a hound on the first night, and a horse on the second night. On the third night, however, Asmund awoke to discover he had become his brother's latest midnight snack, with Aran tearing Asmund's ears off and devouring them.

If the smell of decay wasn't enough to give a Viking zombie away, a draugr could always be recognized by his blue skin. The ancient Norsemen were rather familiar with the disturbing colors a dead body could turn in their intense cold climate, which is why the color of the draugr was often referred to as *hel-blár*—or literally “blue-death.” While he resembled his living self, the draugr could also change



THINKSTOCK

The thought of his treasure horde being plundered by greedy relatives could cause a Viking revenant to leave his burial mound and prowl the surrounding countryside.

A Watchful Eye

Finally, consider the story of the awful and wretched Killer-Hrapp, who demanded that he be buried under his living room door in an upright position, so much the better, as he said, for “keeping an eye on my house.” His long-suffering wife did exactly as she was told for she knew that no matter how difficult her spouse had been in life, he would be much more of a handful when he was part of the unquiet dead.



Hungering for both revenge and human flesh, the Viking draugr gave new meaning to the term “the restless dead.”

THINKSTOCK

Knock, Knock...Who's There?

In a primitive form of cattle mutilation, the draugr were feared by shepherds, who had to tend their livestock at night. In the ultimate sneaky attack, the draugr would often just knock on the front door of a house and woe be unto the unsuspecting resident who peered out to see who was there. As a result, a “secret knock” was developed—three taps on the window—so, any other door knock would be recognized as that of the draugr. Unfortunately, since the draugr had the ability to grow to any size, they would often be found sitting on the roof, stomping their feet, or “house-riding” as it was called, if their knock attempt was foiled.

“ Their hunger for life led to a constant hunger for flesh. ”

shapes, in addition to his size, and was recorded as taking the form of horses, bulls or cats. The draugr in cat's clothing would often sit on his victim's chest while the person slept, becoming larger and larger until the chest of the living victim collapsed. Death by crushing was a victim's typical fate, with their flesh then eaten by the draugr. Sometimes, the blood was drunk, giving the draugr a bit of a vampire twist. Rather than staggering slowly across the landscape like modern zombies, the

The Viking Undead: Know the Difference

The haugbui was another undead creature from Norse lore, similar to the draugr. The haugbui was confined to its burial mound and the immediate vicinity, which limited its horror options. The haugbui was typically only a threat to grave robbers or travellers who happened to pass too close to the burial mound. Like the draugr, the haugbui also possessed an incredible hunger. In the story of Aran and Asmund, Aran was actually a haugbui, although it's unknown if he graduated to the rank of draugr over time.

draugr could rise from the ground and exit the same way, like a cloud of smoke.

WRESTLING FOR SURVIVAL

The only way to defeat a Viking zombie was to beat him in a wrestling match and return him to his grave. As if the previous step was somehow trivial, the draugr would then have to be decapitated, as well, sometimes with the added requirement that it be done with one of his own swords. Finally, the once-again-dead body was to be burned to ashes and the ashes buried, or thrown into the sea.

Courtesy of black magic, there were some draugr repellents available, but those caught using them were often persecuted as witches, a true lose/lose proposition. Sanctioned draugr preventatives included placing a pair of scissors on the chest of the recent dead and the big toes tied together to inhibit walking. Alternatively, pins were sometimes put in the soles of the feet to achieve the same effect. The casket would be spun in a multitude of directions when headed toward the burial site, an act the living hoped would confuse the corpse about what path they were taking. Finally, for the avid do-it-yourselfer, a corpse door would be added to the house where a dead body was laid in state. The corpse would then be conveyed to the cemetery through this custom-built door. The door would later be bricked over, never to be used again, for the Vikings believed that the restless dead could only return through the same door they exited. ■



A carved statue of Thor, the Viking god of thunder and lightning.

William Bonin is a software developer by day and zombie tracker by night. He also has significant experience in the area of nymphs, fairies, pixies, goblins, hobgoblins, nyads, and wood sprites.

These delicate carvings from Urnes Viking Church attest to how skilled their craftsmen were.

W E A P O N S

Buyer's Guide PREPARE

BY BETHANY MILLER

When the undead start walking, the only thing more important than your ability to run will be your ability to defend yourself. Sure, you could just grab the nearest sawed-off shotgun—a zombie lore classic—but you'd do even better to have a diverse arsenal of weapons on hand. You might want a knife for close-quarters combat, for portability and for other survival purposes. Maybe you want some practice weapons to ensure you'll have perfect aim when it really counts. Whatever your need, here are some excellent options to consider when amassing your anti-zombie defense.



Z37 Zombie Siege

COMPANY: Crosman

WEBSITE: www.crosman.com

MSRP: \$39.95

It's no secret that the bigger your gun, the better your chances of surviving a zombie attack. But a big gun will do you little good if you don't know how to use it—so why not practice with this high-capacity BB gun? The spring-powered Zombie Siege has a reservoir capacity of 400 6-millimeter BBs. Its features include a quad rail mounting system for accessories; removable stock, forearm support and aiming optic; and carry handle with adjustable rear sight.



Z357 Ztorm Revolver

COMPANY: Crosman

WEBSITE: www.crosman.com

MSRP: \$76.99

Those who prefer a more lightweight firearm will get much use out of this semi-automatic. This semi-automatic CO2-powered handgun fires 6-millimeter BBs at 400 fps and has a capacity of eight rounds. A fixed front sight and fully adjustable back sight will allow you to hone your sharp-shooting. Replacing the CO2 is made quick and easy by a detachable grip panel.

Zombie Getaway Neon Target & Throwing Set

COMPANY: United Cutlery

WEBSITE: www.unitedcutlery.com

MSRP: \$49

Who says a knife can only be used in close combat? With these throwing knives, you can have the best of both worlds: the simplicity of a knife with the distance-attacking ability of a gun. The set includes a nylon carrying case and an instruction card, as well as a zombie-themed target for practice.



Zombie Zomstro Chopper

COMPANY: KA-BAR

WEBSITE: www.kabar.com

MSRP: \$172.12

This blade means business! A hefty 15.5 inches long and 1.6 pounds, you'll have no problem hacking away at any undead attacker. The 10.25-inch blade is made from 1095 Cro-Van, the handle from GFN-PA66 for a solid grip.

Kold Khukri

COMPANY: 5.11 Tactical

WEBSITE: www.511tactical.com

MSRP: \$159.99

This limited-edition machete, designed by Mike Vellekamp, may be fierce enough to scare off zombies by sight alone! The blade, 10.9 inches long, is made from AUS-8 steel. The handle features textured FRN scales, and the whole shebang weighs 1.5 pounds.





Buyer's Guide PREPARE

Bear Tac II (Undead)

COMPANY: Bear OPS

WEBSITE: www.bearops.com

MSRP: \$125

The Bear Tac II may not be as intimidating at first sight as the Chopper and Khukri, but it's no less tough. The 5.5-inch 1095 blade features the fittingly creepy Reaper Z coating, while the G10 handle is colored green to match.



Zombie Eat Flesh T-shirt

COMPANY: Engaged Enthusiast Media

WEBSITE: www.engagedmediamags.com

MSRP: \$19.95

In desperate times, a sense of humor can be as valuable a key to survival as weapons. And what better way to demonstrate your sense of humor than to wear it on a T-shirt? This 100% cotton tee, available in sizes medium through XXL, would be the perfect thing to wear to the practice range.



Zombie Apocalypse Survival Kit

COMPANY: Montie Gear

WEBSITE: www.montiegear.com

MSRP: \$149.90

This ain't your grandpa's homemade slingshot; these high-performance bands, attached to solid aluminum frames, will silently shoot 9.5-millimeter steel balls at 150 feet per second, allowing you to easily penetrate zombie flesh. Included are 200 rounds of ammunition, 50 zombie targets and two spare bands.

500 Rolling Thunder shotgun

COMPANY: Mossberg

WEBSITE: www.mossberg.com

MSRP: \$521



Those who prefer to adhere to the tried-and-true can't go wrong with a shotgun. With its straight-forward operation, even the beginner will be able to do damage against the undead. This classic model features pump action and a barrel stabilizer/flash suppressor and uses 12-gauge slugs.



Designated Marksman Rifle

COMPANY: Barnes Precision Machine

WEBSITE: www.barnesprecision.com

MSRP: \$1,454.

When it's time to bring out the big guns in earnest, few things could be better than a precision rifle. While this sort of gun may not be the best for the inexperienced user, a practiced marksman will be well equipped to take out zombies with a single shot. This rifle uses 5.56-caliber rounds and semi-automatic, direct gas impingement system. Special features include a BPM stainless steel match barrel, .223 Wylde chamber, Miculek muzzle brake, JARD trigger system and BPM handguards.

BPM stainless steel match barrel, .223 Wylde chamber and Miculek muzzle brake.

Four decorated cookies shaped like zombie skulls are shown. The top left cookie is white with red and black details. The top right cookie is white with yellow and black details. The bottom left cookie is purple with red and black details. The bottom right cookie is orange with red and black details. They are all set against a black background.

Whimzkulls®

Hand Skulpted Cookies
www.etsy.com/shop/whimzkulls
whimzkulls@gmail.com
425-698-9837

Hot Zombie Products



Combat Kimmy is ready to take on the next zombie horde that comes shuffling through the door. Holding a cell phone stun gun in one hand and a zombie knife in the other, and wearing the Not Infected T-shirt, she's got her zombie game face on.

Where to find those killer zombie products you can't live without.

BY MERRIE DESTEFANO

It doesn't matter if you're still building your end times bunker or if it's fully stocked with enough food and water to last for two years—the bottom line is you can never be too prepared. Don't until Z Day comes to realize you don't have what you need.

On the next several pages, we're going to show you the hottest zombie products on the planet. On top of that, we're going to introduce you to the folks who sell these items, because we believe that knowing who's on your side is half the battle in this undead war.

ZOMBIE APOCALYPSE STORE

3420 Spring Mountain Road,
Las Vegas, NV 89102
(702) 320-0703

Zombieapocalypsestore.com

Zombiestore.biz

Facebook: Zombie Apocalypse Store Las Vegas

Located in Las Vegas and owned by Mike Monko, this brick-and-mortar establishment caters to a fun-loving, zombie-aware crowd, with items that run a delicate balance between fun and functional. The setting gets you in the mood for survival with its high-end animatronics that include a zombie dog and a zombie behind a door. Products for sale include books, T-shirts, novelties, survival items and weapons. Monko says they have products for whatever your zombie happens to be, which includes a full-out zombie apocalypse to civil unrest to a tsunami. From time to time, they also host special events, like when they rented out a local theater to hold a prescreening of *World War Z* for their clientele. Check out some of their products below.

PRODUCT: Cell Phone Stun Gun

STORE: Zombie Apocalypse Store

MSRP: \$31.

Next time the zombies are on the hunt, just pull out the cell phone stun gun shown in the photo to the left. The undead won't know what hit them.

PRODUCT: 21-inch Zombie Machette

STORE: Zombie Apocalypse Store

MSRP: \$48.

With its 21-inch steel blade, the Zombie Machette could easily become your new friend when Z Day comes.

PRODUCT: NOT Infected T-Shirt

STORE: Zombie Apocalypse Store

MSRP: \$16.50

Inspired by Max Brooks, author of *World War Z*, who did a book signing at the Zombie Apocalypse Store's grand opening. At that time, the store had a shirt that said 'Infected.' Brooks suggested they make another shirt that said 'Not Infected' (on the front), with 'Still Human, Do Not Shoot' (on the back). Voila! Now you're ready for survival.

What's Your Zombie?

The Zombie Apocalypse Store believes the best zombie is a dead zombie.

By Kimmy, The Zombie Slayer

Don't believe the famished hordes are coming to feast on your brains? Well, let us explore your understanding of the zombie, shall we?

What is the Zombie?

Let's clear up the definition of a zombie.

A. The body of a dead person given the semblance of life, but mute and will-less, animated by a supernatural force, usually for an evil purpose.

B. A person whose behavior or responses are wooden, listless, or seemingly rote; an automaton.

C. An eccentric or peculiar person.

Assuming you don't live under a rock and have some idea as to what is going down in the world today, it's safe to say our government is already infected. I'm not gonna name any names. They know who they are.

What is an Apocalypse?

The destruction of our world can come in many forms. Two common definitions of an apocalypse are below:

A: A prophetic cataclysm in which the forces of good permanently triumph over the forces of evil.

B: A universal or widespread destruction or disaster.

Anyone else think we're about due for an end-of-the-world scenario? I say bring it on!

Zombie Theories

I get to hear a whole slew of theories about what the end of the world might be like and I'm honored that people like to share their theories with me.

There are no taboos in the Zombie Apocalypse Store when it comes to sharing your viewpoints. No one is going to look at you sideways. We like thinking outside of the box!

From rapture to alien abduction, we hear it all. Our ultimate goal is to prepare you for your end times melt down. No matter what the minor or major details are.

So, come in and share with us. Let our experts help you find the tools you need to get you through this ending and on to the next.

PREPARE

ZOMBIE ZONE

931 S. Rainbow Blvd.,
Las Vegas, NV 89145
(702) 362-1500

Facebook: [Zombie Zone](#)

Located in Las Vegas and owned by Joel Weiner, this is another brick-and-mortar establishment. Part of their business is also done through Facebook, at [Zombie Zone](#).

PRODUCT: *WWZ* poster
STORE: [Zombie Zone](#)
MSRP: \$28.99 framed or \$9.99 rolled

Immerse yourself in the coming apocalypse with the *World War Z* movie poster. Perfect for staring at any time you need a reminder that the apocalypse could be around the corner.



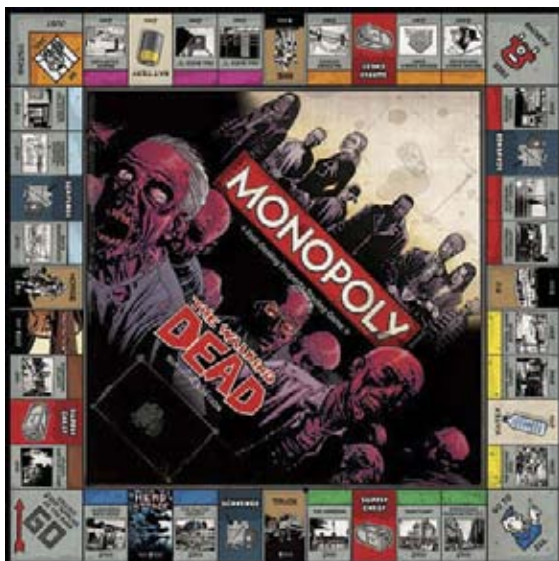
PRODUCT: *Zombie Road Trip* game
STORE: [Zombie Zone](#)
MSRP: \$24.99

Recommended for ages 12 and older, this board game allows players to kill zombies while they travel through a wasteland, searching for a cure.



PRODUCT: *TWD* Wallet
STORE: [Zombie Zone](#)
MSRP: \$18.99 and up

Store your credit cards, cash and emergency survival plan in these handy and zombie-adorable *Walking Dead* wallets. Everyone will know you're a fan of the popular series and they'll know you're gearing up Z Day.



PRODUCT: *Monopoly: The Walking Dead Survival Edition*
STORE: [Zombie Zone](#)
MSRP: \$39.99

Complete with all the wheeling and dealing you expect in the classic *Monopoly* game, this *Walking Dead* Survival Edition takes place in a post-apocalyptic setting. At the end, only one person will be left as players struggle to obtain resources and real estate necessary for survival.

ZOMBIE GEAR

Zombiegear.us

Weapon-owners.com

Peltonpromotions.com

Owned by James Pelton, Zombie Gear features unique items that cater to the zombie enthusiast. Among other things, his product line includes exploding head targets filled with tannerite and dye sublimated purses with zombies. One of his most popular designs is a line of products that feature 'Goodbye Kitty.'

PRODUCT: Goodbye Kitty T-shirt

STORE: ZOMBIE GEAR

MSRP: \$18 - \$20

Stay cozy despite the raging wasteland winds in this Goodbye Kitty T-shirt. Made from 100% cotton, this will roll up easily to stash in the go bag you keep at the foot of your bed.



PRODUCT: Latex Zombie Mask

STORE: ZOMBIE GEAR

MSRP: \$100

Available in a wide variety of styles, each of Zombie Gear's latex zombie masks is hand made and hand painted. Realistic enough to give someone nightmares, they may even fool the zombie hordes.

PRODUCT: Goodbye

Kitty Purse

STORE: ZOMBIE GEAR

MSRP: \$20

No reason to lose your sense of style just because the apocalypse is around the corner. Zombie function and fashion collide in this Goodbye Kitty shoulder strap purse, perfect for carrying an extra energy bar, cell phone stun gun, and directions to the nearest safe house.



ZOMBIE GNOMES

Zombiegnomes.net

Owned by Doug Hudson, Zombie Gnomes carries a variety of undead products that will add a touch of the macabre to your garden or yard. No more fairies for the zombie enthusiast. Replace them with these frightful, hand-painted gnomes, cast from concrete and protected from UV and rain by a polyurethane sealant.



PRODUCT: Lawn of the Dead, Garden Stone

STORE: Zombie Gnomes

MSRP: \$19.99

With a hand reaching up, as if about to climb out of the grave, this lawn plague declares to all that this property belongs to the dead. Walkers and looters beware!



PRODUCT: Mrs. Dead, Zombie Gnome

STORE: Zombie Gnomes

MSRP: \$49.99

Sometimes zombies travel in packs, with husbands and wives side by side. In this instance, Mrs. Dead Gnome waits patiently for hubby to come home, dinner ready and waiting in the bowl she carries. This is one lawn ornament sure to ward off apocalyptic marauders, who first thought you would be easy prey.



PRODUCT: Feast, Zombie

Gnome Feast

STORE: Zombie Gnomes

MSRP: \$69.99

Ward off wandering zombies by placing this gruesome lawn sculpture in your yard. Depicting an undead gnome devouring a live gnome and made from durable concrete, this is one feast that's sure to let all the neighborhood walkers know your that house has already been claimed.

8 BITTY

8-bitty.com

8-Bitty is the brain child of Luke Morgan, an artist and graphic designer who hails from Tasmania, Australia. His work is heavily influenced by video games and Saturday morning cartoons, while his high quality t-shirts celebrate a radical indie video game (and zombie survival) lifestyle.



Product: The 8-Bit Zombtee

Store: 8-Bitty

MSRP: \$30

Uniquely designed, front and back to look like part of a zombie video game, this T-shirt is hand-printed on preshrunk, 100% cotton and available in sizes small through double extra large. Wearers of the shirt may begin to show signs of being infected—by the 8-bit Z virus! Symptoms may include biting and repeatedly calling for 8-bit brains.

Product: The Zombtee: 2

Store: 8-Bitty

MSRP: \$30

Same Z-virus, different T-shirt. The Zombtee: 2 is the official sequel to the 8-bit Zombtee, the T-shirt that has infected people worldwide with the 8-bit Z virus. Features include elegant hack and slash injuries on the front, while on the back a delightful spinal column is exposed.



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Rick has faced his share of demons on AMC's hit TV series, *The Walking Dead*. Despite everything, he has been a good father and leader for their group of survivors. In other words, he is the ultimate hero for the apocalypse.

No Fear

The Badass Cast of the *The Walking Dead*.

BY GARRETT KIM

Who would you want defending you if the zombie apocalypse ever arose? You might cite friends or family, but another safe bet would be the characters on *The Walking Dead*—after all, they've survived for three seasons without becoming a meal for the walkers.

To get a grip on who's a badass zombie-killer and who might not be helpful if the zombie apocalypse arises, check out the following breakdown of the show's cast of characters. Plus, take a look at our imagined life or death scenarios—situations that could crop up at any time to threaten our favorite characters.

PHOTOS COURTESY OF AMC/THE WALKING DEAD.



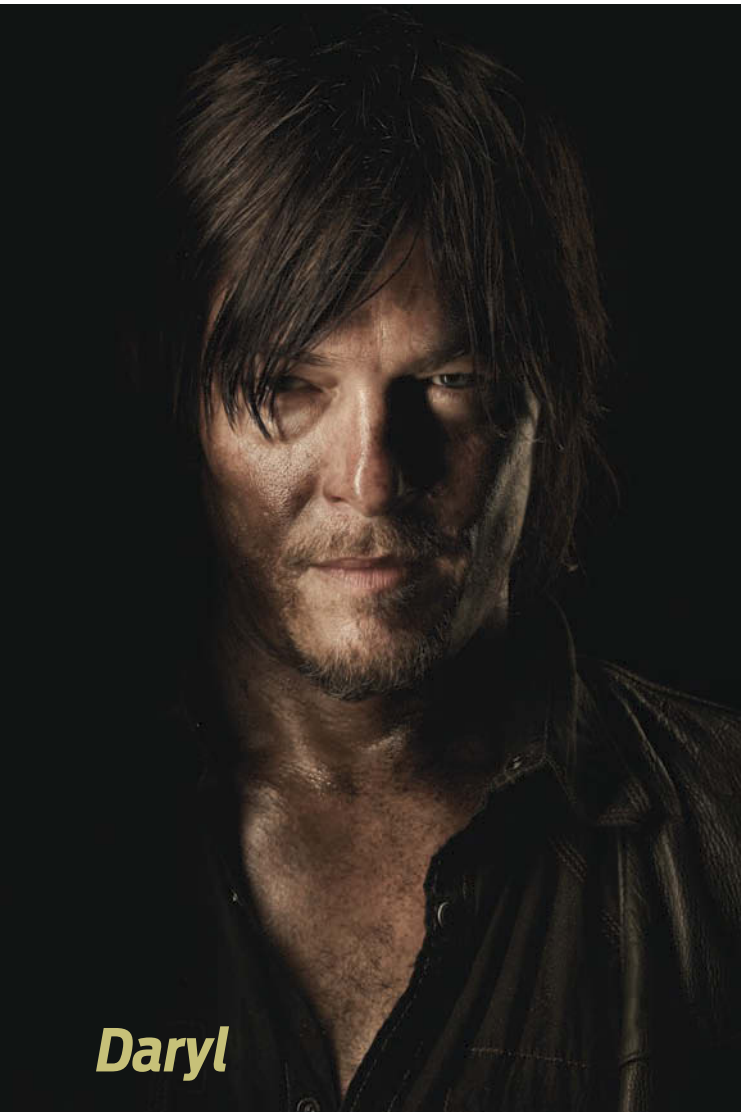
Rick

Rick Grimes is the hero of *The Walking Dead*, and has been the survivors' leader since season one. Throughout the series, Rick has been forced to make tough decisions that affect not only himself, but the entire group as a whole. One of Rick's main focuses—in addition to surviving the undead—is to raise his two kids, Carl and newborn Judith.

LIFE OR DEATH SCENARIO

Lori's ghost comes back with a vengeance and she tries to lead Rick into a pack of walkers. He will only survive if he's finally able to accept that she's really dead.

“One of Rick's main focuses—in addition to surviving the undead—is to raise his two kids, Carl and newborn Judith.”



Daryl

Daryl is widely regarded as the most popular character among fans of the series, and with good reason. Daryl's tough guy demeanor and his zombie-killing expertise have earned him respect and admiration, because he seems to have no fear. Although he initially had trouble getting along with the rest of the group, Daryl has become Rick's right hand man, and is always there to help other members of the group when they're in need of another set of zombie-killing hands.

LIFE OR DEATH SCENARIO

Daryl's virtually indestructible. So, his worst case scenario, worse than dying, takes place when he survives everyone, becoming the last man alive on the planet.



Carl

Carl Grimes is Rick's 13-year-old son, and has possibly matured more than any other character throughout the series. The zombie apocalypse has exposed Carl to more death and violence than average kids his age and, as a result, he has become an essential member of the group.

LIFE OR DEATH SCENARIO

Growing up in the apocalypse hasn't been kind to Carl. If he's not careful, the next time he pulls a gun on a teenager, the weapon might misfire and kill Carl instead.

Growing Up in the Apocalypse

Kids, like Carl, who grow up during a zombie apocalypse will never have what we consider a "normal" life. In fact, their lives could be downright bizarre. The following three aspects of a child's life in the world of the walking dead depict just how different it could be versus growing up in a non-zombie world.

Say goodbye to your friends. When Carl befriends Sophia in season two, he is glad to finally have a pal—until she turns into a zombie and he has to say farewell.

Killing is a way of life. Carl was still just a preteen when he shot down his first zombie using his pistol.

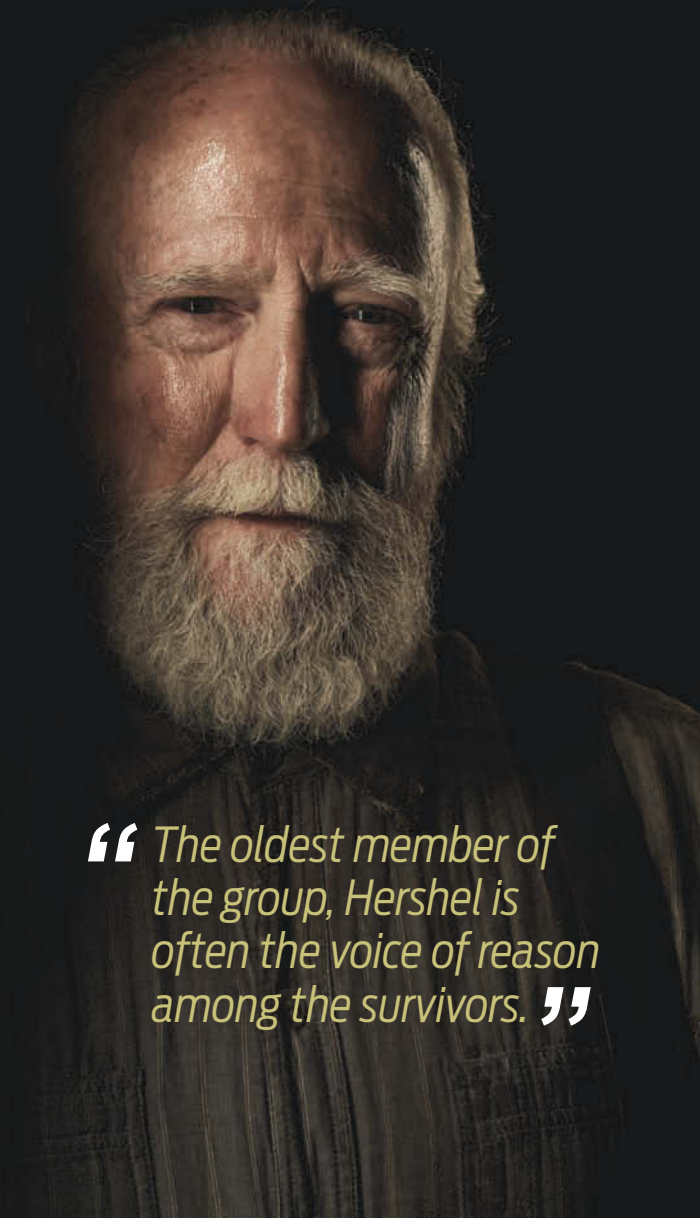
Your home is a prison. Where's the best place to guard yourself against zombies? A prison, which is heavily fortified. Carl makes his home in one to stay safe from the undead—rather unconventional for a child of his age.

Hershel

The oldest member of the group, Hershel is often the voice of reason among the survivors. Although he is Maggie's father, he has become somewhat of a father figure to Glenn as well. Hershel's most impressive feature is that whenever Rick needs advice, he calls on Hershel for guidance. As the wisest and most experienced member of the group, Hershel is essential to their knowledge base.

LIFE OR DEATH SCENARIO

Hershel will perish as the result of veterinary science gone wrong. He'll be tending to Michonne's wounded horse in the forest, when an infected boar will charge out of the woods and trample him to death.

A close-up portrait of Hershel, an elderly man with a long, grey beard and hair. He has a serious, weathered expression and is looking directly at the camera. He is wearing a dark, textured shirt.

“The oldest member of the group, Hershel is often the voice of reason among the survivors.”

A close-up portrait of Michonne, a Black woman with long dreadlocks. She is wearing a headband and a dark jacket with a laced-up collar. She has a serious expression and is looking directly at the camera.

Michonne

A new addition to the team of survivors, Michonne almost didn't make it into the group. Rick was initially reluctant to invite her in because he didn't know much about her. She soon proved herself to be an essential member by saving the lives of not only Rick but other members of the group multiple times during season three.

LIFE OR DEATH SCENARIO

Michonne's greatest strength could become her greatest weakness. During a zombie battle, her Katana sword could accidentally slice her arm and she could die from tetanus.



Carol

While Carol may have started off the series as the submissive wife to an abusive husband, she has grown into a strong, independent woman and is able to hold her own against the zombies, even after losing her only daughter.

LIFE OR DEATH SCENARIO

Carol could hook up with another man, even worse than her husband, except this time she fights back when he hits her. Their argument draws a nearby zombie horde and Carol ends up a midday snack.

Glenn

As one of the four original characters who has been fighting zombies since season one, Glenn has evolved tremendously over the course of the series. One of the things he values most is his relationship with Maggie and he is willing to do anything to keep her safe.

LIFE OR DEATH SCENARIO

Maggie is Glenn's Achilles' heel. If she's ever pinned in by the undead, this love-struck guy won't think twice about diving in to rescue her.

Even if he dies trying.





The Governor

The main antagonist of the series, the Governor entered *The Walking Dead* in season three, and we initially thought he was a good guy. But the Governor later revealed himself to be very self-centered and willing to do anything to take out Rick and the rest of the group of survivors.

LIFE OR DEATH SCENARIO

This guy doesn't deserve to live. One day that collection of zombie heads in fish tanks will find him and with just a few sharp nibbles on his toes, he'll be invited into the dark kingdom of the undead.



Creepiest Father/Daughter Relationship

One of the most unusual aspects of the Governor's life is when we learn he has been sheltering his zombie daughter in secret from the rest of the town. He believes his daughter is still alive somewhere inside her zombie body, so he keeps her chained up near a trophy hall of zombie heads, which are displayed in fish tanks that line the wall.


Like all weird relationships, the love between the Governor and his daughter had to end eventually—and when Michonne wanted revenge against the Governor, she killed his daughter by stabbing her with her trusty Katana sword.



Maggie

Maggie is Hershel's daughter and Glenn's girlfriend, but she isn't just arm candy. Maggie never shies away from fighting zombies, and in one instance when zombies were invading the prison, she was one of the many survivors seen killing zombies left and right to save the group. She also delivered baby Judith without having had any medical training.

LIFE OR DEATH SCENARIO

Wanting a normal life could kill Maggie, when she finally gets pregnant with Glenn. But she ends up in the zombie-infested woods, alone, when the baby comes. Delivering the baby by herself, quietly and quickly, will be her only hope for survival. 

When he's not watching The Walking Dead, Garrett Kim is packing his zombie survival kit so he can get on the run quickly during the apocalypse.

“Maggie never shies away from fighting zombies...”

GET READY

5 Tips for Apocalypse Preparation

BY JOLENE NOLTE

You can never be too careful. Sure, the sun may be shining down now on you and your perfectly human friends, but what if that changes?

No time like the present to prepare! We talked to Nick Iannitti of Zombie Industries to learn his top five tips for apocalypse preparation.

1 *Know your weapons system, even during failure.*

Knowing how to operate your weapon under normal conditions when everything is working is one thing. Knowing what to do when the undead are on your tail and your weapon won't fire is quite another. Learn how your weapon works from the inside out so you can quickly problem solve when it counts.

2 *Plan a secondary location.*

You need a backup shelter and meeting place. In the chaos of an apocalypse, you can't depend on cell phones to make sure you and your loved ones get to the same place. Neither can you assume that your home will be immune from trouble. Make sure you and your loved ones know your secondary location and how to get there without the technological aids.

3 *Have an adequate food and water supply.*

Without food and water, how can you expect to have the strength to outrun bloodthirsty zombies? Keep a reserve of non-perishable foods and water. Grocery stores and running water may well not be an option, so make sure you're prepared.




PHOTO COURTESY OF ZOMBIE INDUSTRIES.

Meet Chris, the three-dimensional zombie-like mannequin that won't eat your brains so you can defeat the ones who will. Made by Zombie Industries and available for \$89.95 at Zombieindustries.com.

4 *Select a proper team*

Establish a team of people you can not only trust but who have the skills you'll need. Find people with shooting skills, others with survival skills, and make sure they know your backup plan.

5 *Don't be last*

You don't have to be the fastest, but just make sure you're not the straggler. The slowest are easy prey for the living dead, so make sure you don't lag behind. 

For more information on Zombie Industries, visit zombieindustries.com.

PREPARE

This gruesome zombie flash mob helped celebrate the Metal Hammer Golden Gods Award around London.



ROB MONK/METAL HAMMER MAGAZINE/GETTY IMAGES

Flash Mob **Fever**

Discover thrills and chills by joining a local zombie flash mob.

BY MARGARET KAVANAUGH

Is that a zombie sidling up next to you? And another one, over there?

As you look around, you notice a few more blood-stained creatures shambling closer until you realize a large cluster has filled the area, all

of them groaning and lurching at you!

You turn to run, but suddenly music swells, the zombies snap to attention and break into the dance from Michael Jackson's "Thriller." If it's October, you may have stumbled into one of over 200 zombie flash mobs worldwide known as

Thrill The World (TTW) that gather each year to celebrate, break records, and raise money for charity.

Zombie flash mobs are a growing phenomenon—they're popping up everywhere and are a great way to meet zombie enthusiasts in your area. Like other flash mobs, the zombie versions have a variety of



Even kids can get in on the thrills! This middle school class has Zombie Flash Mob fun while collecting canned goods for charity.

PHOTO COURTESY OF THRILL THE WORLD NYC

“When you do take part in a zombie flash mob, you’ll need to dress and act the part.”

reasons for gathering. Some, (like TTW) perform choreographed dances, some visit establishments for grand openings or other special events, and some simply stagger through town for fun and/or terror.

ZOMBIFY YOURSELF

When you do take part in a zombie flash mob, you’ll need to dress and act the part. What you wear could make the difference between a comfortable, enjoyable time and an incredibly painful trip where you’re limping

and the blisters are more real than you’d like. Take note of these helpful hints:

GENERAL CONSIDERATIONS

What type of zombie are you? Are you the type that crawled from the grave in your burial garments? Or are you an everyday citizen ripped from your normal life and infected by the bite of another undead? Or, perhaps you’re a famous celebrity who’s fallen prey to the zombie plague. Whatever the case, your zombie dress and makeup should reflect

Be the Zombie

Now it’s time to walk the walk. The zombie walk—or should we say the zombie lurch.

Here’s more advice from Anderson that she shares for “Thriller” participants:

“When dancing like a zombie you must remember that your parts have been asleep for a while ... stiff joints when walking, no expressions, and lots of drooling and sounds of “grrrr argggghhhhhh.”

“Think about like having to get up early in the morning after partying all night! You make these sounds naturally, just take it to an extreme level.”



A UNICEF fundraiser is the perfect reason for a flash mob, according to these fine folks!

PHOTO COURTESY OF THRILL THE WORLD NYC

How It Begins

Thrill The World, started by Ines Markelle of Canada, set off “Thriller” fever around the world on October 25, 2008. Thrill The World New York City was started in April of 2009 by Amada Anderson because she wanted to learn Thriller and thought everyone else did too.

TTW 2009 had 278 registered events from 32 countries for a total of 22,923 zombies. It broke The Record Holders Republic Record for Largest Simultaneous Thriller Dance and raised over \$85,000 for 80 different charities.

In 2010 TTNWYC partnered with The Pajama Program, which collects new PJ’s and children’s books for kids in need. Each year since, TTNWYC has collected hundreds of pajamas and books and this year they will continue their collections. For more information visit www.thrilltheworldnyc.com.

“Zombie flash mobs are a growing phenomenon.”

your zombie personality. After all, it doesn’t make much sense for a zombie in jeans and a ripped t-shirt to be seen at a formal undead wedding party now, does it?

COSTUME SOURCES

Most likely, your costume is going to look worn and dirty, so any clothing you use should be something you don’t plan to keep clean. If you don’t have something in your own closet or to-do-nate pile, try thrift shops, or ask friends and family for

their throwaways.

If you’re going with a specific theme, like a zombie wedding or prom flash mob, you may luck out with your own unwanted dresses or suits, but if not, thrift stores or second-hand stores are your best bet.

As a zombie that’s crawled from the grave, your options are nearly endless. Just remember, outfits should be somewhat formal, as if you’ve been buried in them. But, the more old fashioned, the better.



Thrill The World NYC honors Michael Jackson with their yearly zombie rendition of the Thriller dance.

“As a zombie that’s crawled from the grave, your options are nearly endless.”

For all clothing, add dirt, holes, fake blood and baby powder to age them. Be careful not to tear them up too much or they may become uncomfortable or even hazardous.

Above all: Wear comfortable shoes. Those heels may look the part but you’ll regret them after the first half hour. Dancing or walking, your feet will thank you for choosing better shoes.

MAKEUP

Your zombie makeup can be as subtle or dramatic as you choose. For the lightest look, you’ll need dark eyeshadow and eyeliner under your eyes, pale foundation and red lipstick, with fake blood wherever you want a touch of blood. For a more dra-

matic look, you’ll want to incorporate fake bites, cuts or sores, lots of dirt and baby powder for a dusty appearance.

Amada Anderson from Thrill The World New York City says, “Don’t forget custom contacts to add to the scariness and fun.”

For your hair, anything goes. From your normal hairstyle, to teasing and hairspray, to wigs—just dust them with dirt and baby powder to age your look. **Z**

When planning this magazine, we vowed to use the best sources we could find. Hence we went straight to the top for this one. In the undead world, Margaret Kavanagh is known for tracking zombies and revealing their secret lairs to the authorities.

Finding the Dead

If you find a zombie flash mob in your area, you’ll probably want to get in on the fun. Here are a few tips for finding upcoming events:

- Check out www.zombiewalk.com. The creators of this website have thoughtfully set up forums for each U.S. state (and some world-wide locations) so users can post upcoming zombie walks and flash mob events.
 - Check out www.thrilltheworld.com. You’ll find information on the yearly event happening near you, plus make connections with people likely to know about other events year-round.
 - www.flashmob.com is another great website that lets you find specific types of flash mobs by location.
 - www.meetup.com allows you to use keywords and your location to search out groups and events within a radius that you set.
 - Use Facebook’s search feature to find groups and events near you. For instance, a search for “San Jose Zombie” brings up pages dedicated to zombie runs, pub-crawls and a zombie apocalypse group all happening around the San Jose area. You can also search Twitter.com for the same.
 - Search your local newspaper’s website (most zombie flash mobs have an online presence).
 - Investigate your city’s government webpage for future events.
- Don’t neglect your favorite search engines, like Google or Bing. Just be sure to plug in your location to help narrow the scope.

The Changing World of Zombies

What might be next on the undead horizon

BY MERRIE DESTEFANO

The zombie landscape continues to change.

Just when you think you know how these undead monsters are going to act, they surprise you. Published in 2009, Carrie Ryan's young adult novel, *The Forest of Hands and Teeth*, introduced us to fast zombies, creatures who were able to create havoc above and beyond the slow zombies in the book. In 2010, *Brains: A Zombie Memoir* by Robin Becker came along and in it we discovered that zombies can crave brains, while still possessing a functioning, intelligent brain of their own. Then, in 2011, *Warm Bodies*, a novel by Isaac Marion brought us "R," an adorable zombie who fell in love and, as a result, was healed of his zombie-deadness.

Fast zombies, smart zombies, zombies who fall in love—none of these existed 30 years ago. Back then, zombies were monsters that deserved the sharp edge of a shovel or the blunt end of a baseball bat. They needed to be put down and fast.

But now we expect our zombies to have a little something extra. Shuffling along into an apocalyptic sunset and dining on a smorgasbord of human flesh are no longer enough. We can only guess what ghoulish projects novelists and television writers might currently be working on, but maybe one of these scenarios is on the list...



Zombie Hospitals

Run by a group of zombie preservationists, the hospitals are staffed by the uninfected, who work tirelessly, repairing the injured zombies who stumble, stagger or crawl through the front door. Missing arms are sewn back on, broken jaws reattached, and every zombie leaves with a full stomach.

Zombie Civil Rights

Led by Rachel Carter, an undead teenager, a zombie civil rights movement begins in New York City when she refuses to be pushed to the back of an alley by a club-wielding police officer. In the process, Carter loses her right arm, but regains her dignity, thus earning the right to shamle down city streets, day or night, and opening the door for the rest of her zombie clan to do the same.

“Fast zombies, smart zombies, zombies who fall in love—none of these existed thirty years ago.”



PREPARE

“ Just when you think you know how these undead monsters are going to act, they surprise you. ”

Zombie Fashion

When supermodel, Gillian Lewis, succumbs to the zombie virus, she loses weight and becomes even more famous. As a result, all the top designers want her to wear their fashions. Soon, bloodstained dresses and decaying flesh become haute couture and everyone begins to mimic the look, until no one can tell a real zombie from a fashionista.

Zombie Frozen Dinners

Nobody likes to cook after a long hard day at work. Especially when that day involved lurking in abandoned malls and lunging out at unsuspecting passersby. Hungry and cranky and too tired to forage for food, zombies will soon turn to a convenient line of frozen dinners. With delicious flavors to choose from like Farmer & Farmer's Wife Fricasse and Next-Door Neighbor Stew and Bratty Boy Down the Street Bouillabaisse, the undead will finally be able to relax in the evenings.



Zombie Marriage Counseling

Opposites attract. So it's no surprise when the living and the undead finally decide to tie the knot. Couples get together, but it isn't long before problems arise. What—or who—to put on the barbecue and how to deal with noisy neighbors are only a couple of the disagreements that will eventually lead them to seek professional help.

Zombie Drugs

Struggling to fit into a society where the uninfected are faster, smarter and stronger, zombies begin to take illegal, designer drugs. The undead are soon able to mask their symptoms and curb their hunger for brains, but the cost is great. To pay for their drugs, they fall into a life of crime, and many of them end up worse off than before. [Z](#)





PREPARE

Vampires have the whole undead thing down to a fine art. Zombies, not so much. Peeling flesh, shuffling walk, pungent odor and mindless behavior all give them away.

THINKSTOCK

Vampire or **Zombie** ?

How *I Am Legend* shaped a genre that causes many people to mix the two creatures.

BY TORREY KIM

Richard Matheson's groundbreaking novel *I Am Legend* may have been published in 1954, but if you read it today, the

action is just as realistic as if it was happening right outside your door. The book inspired Stephen King to write his terrifying fiction, and was the impetus

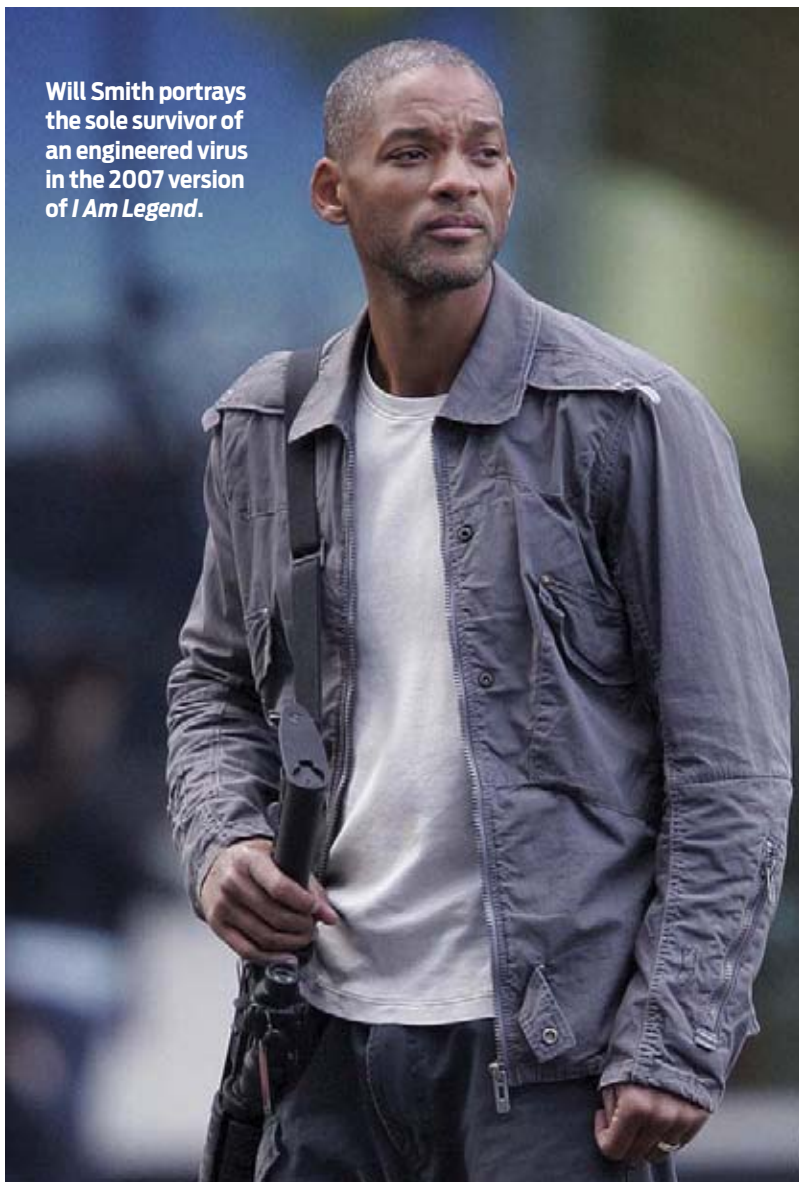
for George A. Romero's chilling take on zombies in *Night of the Living Dead*. Because of that connection, many people assume that Matheson was writing about zombies in his book. On closer inspection, however, *I Am Legend* dealt with an equally frightening creature—the vampire.

The vampires in *I Am Legend* have long been confused with zombies.



THINKSTOCK

Will Smith portrays the sole survivor of an engineered virus in the 2007 version of *I Am Legend*.



GETTY IMAGES

“The creatures in *I Am Legend* aren’t simply mindless brain-eating drones.”

SOURCES OF THE CONFUSION

It’s easy to see how *I Am Legend* was so easily misinterpreted over the years after it was first published. In fact, the vampires in the book don’t exactly behave like Dracula, which is usually our reference point when envisioning vampires. Although our image of vampires typically involves passing the “curse” from one person to the next via a bite to the neck, *I Am Legend* handles the situation differently, making many people question whether the creatures could have been “real” vampires.

In the book, humans are turned into vampires during a pandemic that spreads across the nation, and the main character (Robert Neville) is the only survivor—thus making him a “legend” of the way things used to be. Because of the way the vampire “infection” spreads in the book, many readers have likened it to zombies, who are more likely to “catch” their illness from an infection than vampires are known to do.

In addition, the creatures in *I Am Legend* aren’t simply mindless brain-eating drones like zombies have traditionally been depicted. Instead, they maintain a sense of civility. In addition, they can feign normality and act like regular, social humans, which would be almost impossible for zombies, who aren’t as cunning.

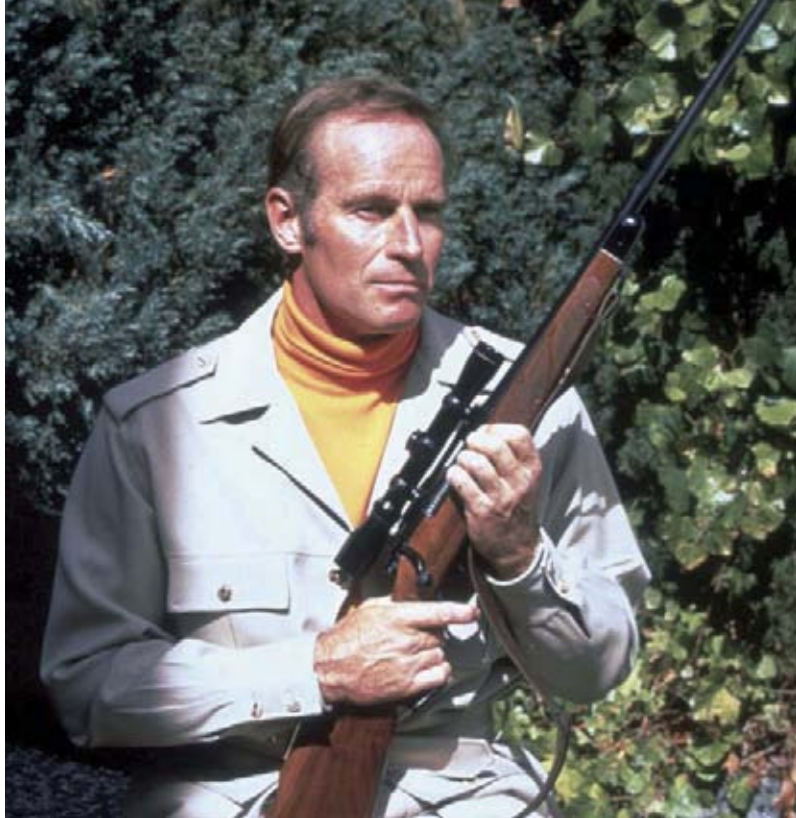
The Movie Depictions

I Am Legend is a famous novel, but because of its iconic nature and constant action, it was a natural for filmmakers to adapt it for the screen. The following movies were based on Matheson’s book:

The Last Man on Earth was the first of the films based on *I Am Legend* and starred Vincent Price in the lead role.

In 1971, *The Omega Man* hit the big screen starring Charlton Heston in a post-apocalyptic Los Angeles setting.

Will Smith’s 2007 version, *I Am Legend*, brings the story to New York City and modernizes it to take place in the millennium.



Charlton Heston starred in 1971's *The Omega Man*, the second movie based on the iconic book *I Am Legend*.

CLUES TO THE VAMPIRE REALITY

One of the most potent situations in the book that solidifies the fact that Matheson was writing about vampires and not zombies occurs when Neville checks whether his new friend Ruth is human or vampire. To test whether she is, in fact, uninfected as she claims, he suggests that she try some garlic. When he holds up the garlic bulb, Ruth immediately rejects it, but claims that she is just not a fan. Although Neville is suspicious about why garlic creates a reaction in Ruth, he lets his suspicions lie because he enjoys her company.

The garlic reference is an obvious indicator of vampirism, since vampires notoriously despise it. However, zombies have no such hatred of garlic. In addition, the creatures in *I Am Legend* abhor sunlight, and prefer to hide out in the dark, as vampires are famous for doing. Plus, Neville protects himself against vampires with mirrors—another well-known enemy of vampires but not of zombies.

Although Matheson is clear in the novel that the creatures are vampires, the movies aren't all as clear. But no matter which version you've loved, rest assured that you are reading about a horde of hungry vampires and not zombies. Unfortunately, the reality is that if you're ever faced with either of these creatures, your chances of surviving are quite slim. **Z**

Torrey Kim plans to survive the coming apocalypse, whether it's populated by zombies or vampires, or a ghoulish combination of both.

“In the book, humans are turned into vampires during a pandemic that spreads across the nation...”

Zombies Versus Vampires

How to tell the difference between zombies and vampires, if you happen to stumble across one in a dark alley.

1 BITE: Vampires bite you once. Zombies bite you over and over and over.

2 APPEARANCE: Although both are undead creatures, vampires can appear quite attractive if it helps catch their prey. Zombies, not so much. They look gruesome, all the time.

3 ODOR: Vampires can blend in nicely with a crowd of humans. Even if you didn't see the zombie lurking behind a door, you'd smell his rotted flesh.

4 EXTINCTION: Although both die when their heads are cut off, you can also kill a vampire with a stake through the heart. Zombies aren't quite as easy to kill, but they're also not as intelligent.

5 ATTRACTION: If you're even remotely attracted to the creature, it has to be a vampire. They're known for enchanting their victims. If you're horrified by the creature, it's definitely a zombie. Run!

STOP THE *Infestation*

The Top 10 Weapons for Fighting Zombies

BY GARRETT KIM

In a world infested with zombies, trying to survive without a weapon is almost on par with asking a zombie for

a hug. If you hope to stay alive in a zombie confrontation, you'll need the right tools of destruction. Here are our suggestions.

BRASS KNUCKLES

There's nothing more manly than going up against a horde of the undead with your fists and a pair of brass knuckles, even though it may not be the smartest choice. Fighting in close quarters is always more dangerous with zombies, and hand-to-hand combat is about as close as it gets.

10

CROWBAR

It's almost as if the crowbar was made for smashing zombies, with its sharp edges and blunt force—plus, it's an everyday object that can do some serious damage. While this can be good for taking out individual zombies, facing a crowd of the undead with only a crowbar isn't the best choice.

9

THINKSTOCK

8

MACHETE

The Machete's sharp blade will make fast work of deadly zombies, and you won't have to worry about running out of ammo in the heat of battle. Another bonus of the machete is that it doesn't make much noise, and therefore won't attract other zombies.

THINKSTOCK

7

FLAMETHROWER

Find yourself fighting a horde of the undead? A flamethrower is perfect for taking out large numbers of zombies quickly and easily. Setting these monsters on fire can be dangerous, however, so make sure not to let them run at you—or you could be engulfed in flames as well.

THINKSTOCK

6

PISTOL

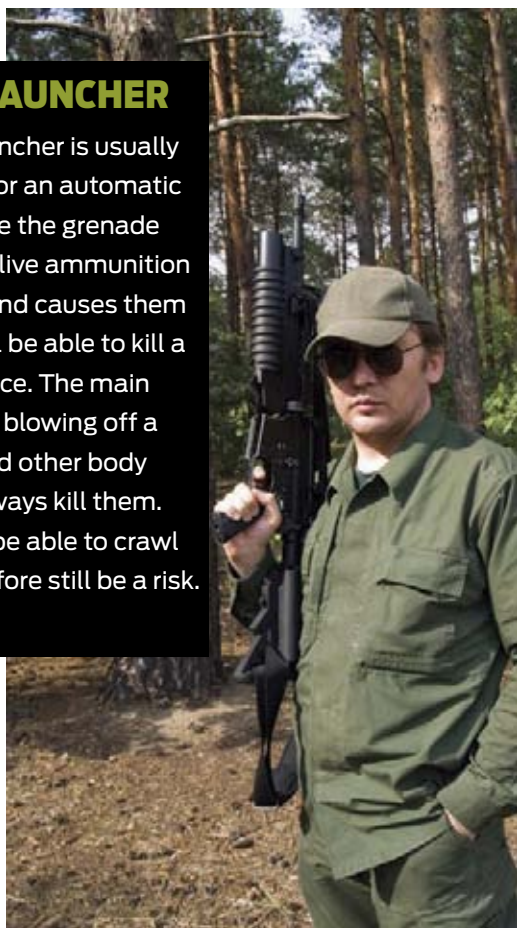
The pistol is a small, yet effective, zombie-killing weapon. It's easy to pick up and use without a lot of training, and is very light to transport. The downside to a pistol is that it only holds a few bullets at a time and requires frequent stops to reload it. Although helpful for everyday travels when you might encounter a zombie, the truth is that when it comes down to a zombie apocalypse, you'll want a more powerful weapon than the pistol.

THINKSTOCK

GRENADE LAUNCHER

A grenade launcher is usually an attachment for an automatic weapon. Because the grenade launcher shoots live ammunition at the zombies and causes them to explode, you'll be able to kill a lot of them at once. The main downside is that blowing off a zombie's legs and other body parts doesn't always kill them. They might still be able to crawl and would therefore still be a risk.

5



THINKSTOCK

CHAINSAW

If you want to take down a zombie at close range, the chainsaw is the gold standard of close combat fighting. It easily kills zombies with a simple swipe and requires almost no work. The chainsaw can decapitate a zombie or rip him to shreds. The only downside is that a chainsaw can be heavy to transport, and requires you to get quite close to a zombie to use it.

3



THINKSTOCK

4

SHOTGUN

The automatic shotgun is one of the most practical zombie killing weapons. Unlike a normal shotgun, this firearm shoots rapidly and quickly, precluding you from having to reload every few shots. The automatic is devastating to the Undead because it takes them down en masse, and has few downsides, other than the fact that it requires a stockpile of ammunition.

THINKSTOCK



AMC



MAN ON A MISSION

From the moment he woke up from his coma, Rick from *The Walking Dead* has symbolized the true apocalypse survivor—a man who will do anything to be reunited with his family and who has the skills to carry it through. What weapon does he turn to when the going gets tough? One that continually proves he's a man of honor—the revolver he used as a sheriff.

RICK'S REVOLVER

Ever since the first episode of *The Walking Dead*, Rick's revolver has been the most prominent weapon in the series, saving Rick and other survivors multiple times. As the county sheriff, Rick has access to additional ammunition for his revolver, which means that running out of bullets isn't an issue for this heroic character.

AMC



BLOOD, SWEAT AND FEARS

Even before he became the man with a bayonet on his arm, Merle was the sort of character on *The Walking Dead* that turned your stomach the moment he walked on screen. But when he reappeared, with a deadly cyborg weapon in tow, his presence ratcheted up the tension even more.

MERLE'S ARM-MOUNTED BAYONET

One of the most memorable weapons on *The Walking Dead* was the result of Merle cutting off his hand to escape a zombie horde. Most viewers thought Merle would be at a disadvantage without his hand, but he came back even stronger—with a bayonet mounted where his hand used to be. Bad-boy Merle has used his unique prosthetic weapon to kill both zombies and humans. But

however he uses his innovative weapon, it's still one of the most badass gadgets that has ever been seen on the show.



GENE PAGE/AMC/THE WALKING DEAD

TOOLS OF DESTRUCTION

Any fan of *The Walking Dead* can tell you that the heroes of this television series wouldn't have gotten far without their weapons. Despite his gruff exterior, it's possible Daryl never would have climbed to the top of the survivors' heap, if it weren't for his trusty crossbow.

DARYL'S CROSSBOW

Throughout the series, few weapons have been more effective than Daryl's trusty crossbow. Not only has it saved the survivors from zombies in multiple situations, but Daryl also uses it to hunt for food for the entire group, making it an excellent all-around weapon in *The Walking Dead's* arsenal. The main benefits of the crossbow are that it's virtually silent and also doesn't run the risk of running out of ammunition since Daryl is able to retrieve his arrows after killing a zombie.

AMC

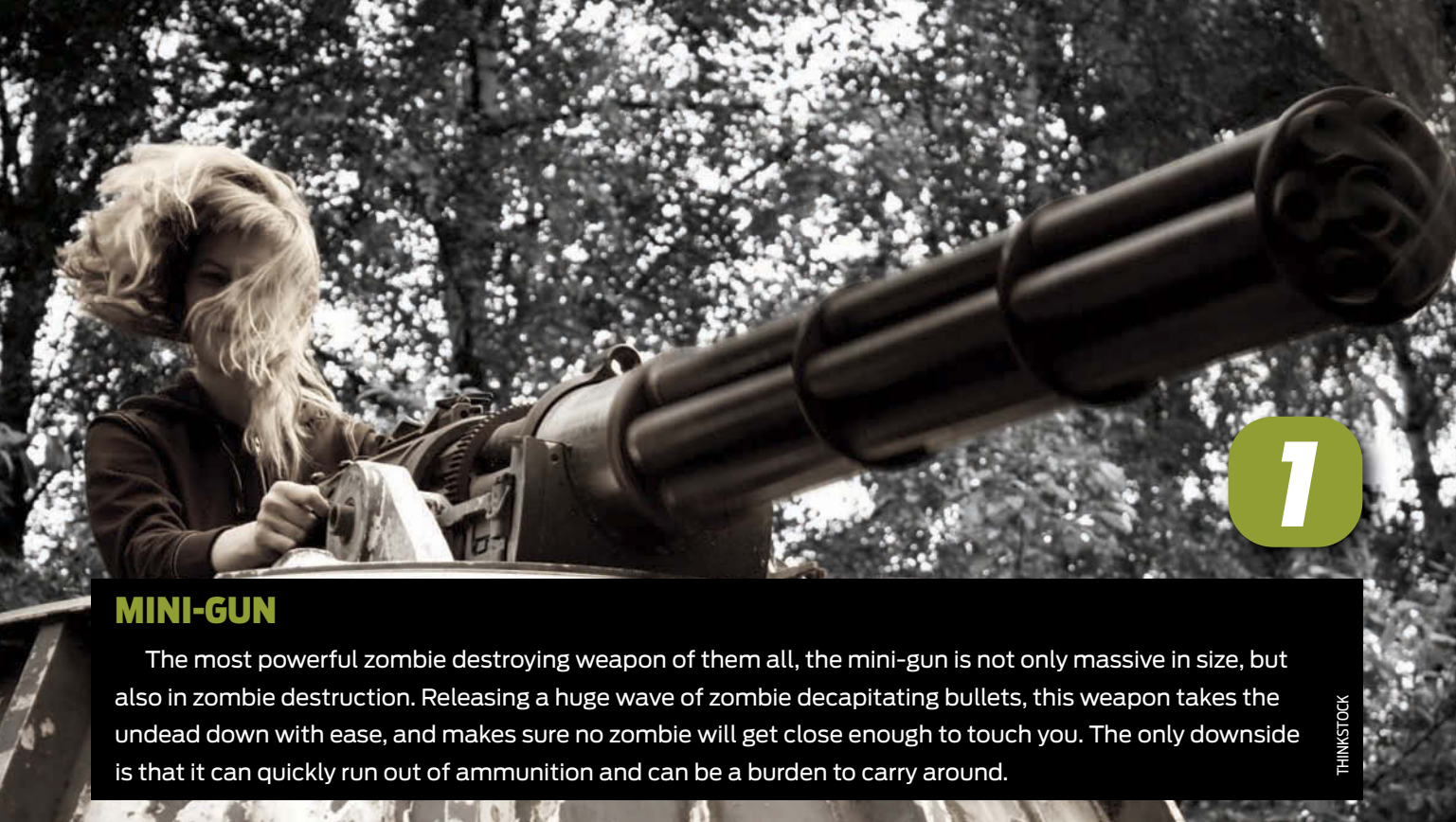


GIRL POWER

Being a woman isn't a hindrance during the apocalypse. At least not if you're Michonne, from *The Walking Dead*. Her weapon of choice? A deadly Katana sword.

MICHONNE'S KATANA SWORD

Michonne's Katana is an insanely dangerous weapon. Like a machete, it can easily slice through a walker with just one strike and, when handled by a skilled fighter like Michonne, it's hard to compete with its effectiveness. The only downside to a Katana is that the user should have some training before attempting to utilize it against the undead, which explains why Michonne is the only *Walking Dead* character who embraces it.



MINI-GUN

The most powerful zombie destroying weapon of them all, the mini-gun is not only massive in size, but also in zombie destruction. Releasing a huge wave of zombie decapitating bullets, this weapon takes the undead down with ease, and makes sure no zombie will get close enough to touch you. The only downside is that it can quickly run out of ammunition and can be a burden to carry around.

THINKSTOCK

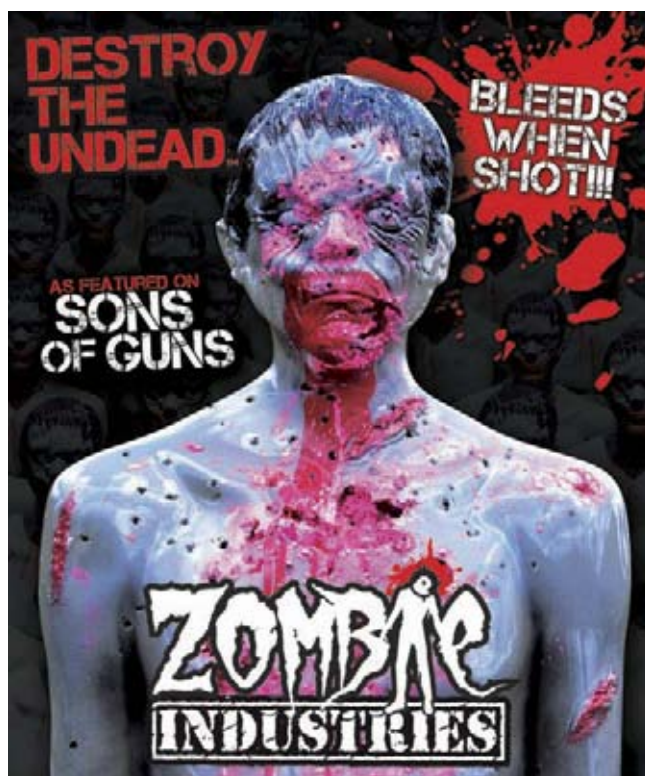


BASEBALL BAT

A fairly simple zombie-killing weapon, this blunt object can be found in most places, and almost everyone knows how to use it. Although the baseball bat is effective at killing a single zombie, it won't save you if you're being chased by a horde of the undead, since it only kills a few zombies at a time.

THINKSTOCK

Garrett Kim is still preparing for the zombie uprising, so almost all of these items are on his Apocalypse Wish List. **Z**



To learn more about preparing for the next Zombie Apocalypse and our complete line of 3-D Zombies, Metal, Cardboard, Paper and Exploding Targets, visit your local retailer or www.DestroyTheUndead.com

MAKING A RUN FOR IT— **IN STYLE**

No Other Vehicle Performs Like the Level 7
When it Comes to Evading Zombies

BY TORREY KIM

Whether you're trying to escape a throng of flesh-hungry zombies or you just need to make your way into the backwoods to avoid them, this custom truck is the ride you'll need to ensure that you and your family stay safe.

Featuring a top speed of over 120 mph and more than 500 horsepower, the Level 7 has the power you need to evade the undead.



The Level 7 Truck is fully capable of fleeing or killing zombies in any situation, thanks to the details and touches that J.R. Posadas—who personally customized it using the base of a 2011 Toyota Tundra—thought to include.

“It’s pretty much indestructible,” Posadas says of the vehicle, which includes a completely bulletproof bottom, special plating to deflect bombs, a bulletproof exterior and windows, and even Kevlar in the seats to avoid damage from a bullet storm that might occur.

“The truck also has an array of weapons hidden throughout it that are all completely legal,” Posadas says. “It has an extended gas tank so it can go further than most other vehicles, and has more horsepower than other trucks, allowing it to be an on- or off-road truck.”

With a top speed of over 120 miles per hour and more than 500 horsepower behind it, the truck can capably transport



WILLIAM BONILLA PHOTOGRAPHY

The Specs

To get a full picture of what the Level 7 holds behind its sleek exterior, check out the following specs that would make any zombie afraid to approach it:

- Warn ZEON 10-S Multi-Mount Winch Kit
- BOLT Padlocks for security
- LED BMW door modifications
- Volant cool air intake
- UV Line-X truck bed
- Expedition One custom front and rear bumpers
- WeatherTech floor mats
- Midland CB radio
- Red floor lights
- LED lights and glove compartment
- Tomahawk shifter with custom Level 7 logo

Being well dressed for the apocalypse means more than wearing camouflage and sporting both weapons and ammo. It also means having the right truck.



“Surviving an apocalypse involves more than just having a steady supply of food and an arsenal of weapons.”

This Ford truck has seen better days and so have the people riding inside. The end of *The Walking Dead*'s season two showed how hard it would be to escape if a zombie horde came knocking on your door.

Lessons We Learned from The Walking Dead

By Merrie Destefano

Surviving an apocalypse involves more than just having a steady supply of food and an arsenal of weapons. You need a plan for escape, even when in the most idyllic of situations—like when the characters on *The Walking Dead* were living on Hershel's farm. You could end up a walker if you wait until the last minute to discover your truck doesn't have the power to push through a hungry zombie horde.

Our recommendations for what to do when the apocalypse strikes:

1. Find the biggest, sturdiest truck, SUV, or Hummer in town and claim it as your own.
2. Always make sure you have plenty of fuel.
3. Stock your vehicle with enough supplies, weapons and ammo for a long journey.
4. Keep updated maps inside, marked with zombie hot spots and potential safe zones.

the entire family to a safe location in the event of a zombie apocalypse, seating five inside the cab and another three in the back, he adds. Not only is the truck itself custom, but the rack system on top of the vehicle, the roll cage, tire rack, and steps are also one-of-a-kind.

BUILT FOR SAFETY—AND COMFORT

You might envision a vehicle that's capable of rolling out of town when the zombie apocalypse hits to be built more for functionality than comfort—but the Level 7 actually has both, Posadas says. The seats are by Bentley, which are great look-

ing and incredibly comfortable. In addition, suede headliners, an on-board computer system and JL Audio stereo speakers allow passengers to snuggle into a cocoon of luxury while making their way to a safe zombie-free location.

The vehicle holds a month's worth of supplies, so Posadas and

Load your zombie-fighting crew into the Level 7 so you can maximize your safety no matter where you go.



“It’s pretty much indestructible,”

Posadas says of the vehicle.

his passengers would definitely be able to escape to a safe house and wait out a zombie apocalypse in a remote location, without having to worry about where to find necessities.

Unfortunately for readers who might be drooling over the possibility of finding this zombie-proof vehicle at their local dealerships, it’s not a mass-market cruiser. Posadas spent about a year and a half customizing the truck in his free time after he would get home from his job as a personal trainer, and the Level 7 is the only ride quite like it. **Z**

Torrey Kim may not have a Level 7 vehicle just yet, but she’s already hoarding Twinkies in preparation for the zombie apocalypse.

The Right Tires

Rolling over dead zombie bodies, mountainous terrain, or dirt roads can make a drive quite uncomfortable—unless you have the right tires. Posadas installed 37x13 .50R20 Nitro Tires with OMF Performance beadlocks over KMC XD wheels for the ultimate comfortable ride. These, coupled with the vehicle’s Icon Vehicle Dynamics remote reservoir coilovers and piggyback shocks create an almost airlike ride—as if you’re flying over zombies and not just knocking them off left and right.



The Level 7 holds a month’s worth of supplies so you can stay on the road longer without having to stock up at local stores.

SURVIVE

ZOMBIE

Survival Party Planning

Live and die by the company you keep.

BY SEAN KAVANAGH

Your traveling companions in the zombie wasteland can mean the difference between living to see another day and becoming breakfast. Learn how to identify the survivors you'll encounter—their strengths and weaknesses—and the likelihood they'll get you killed.

THE LONE WOLF

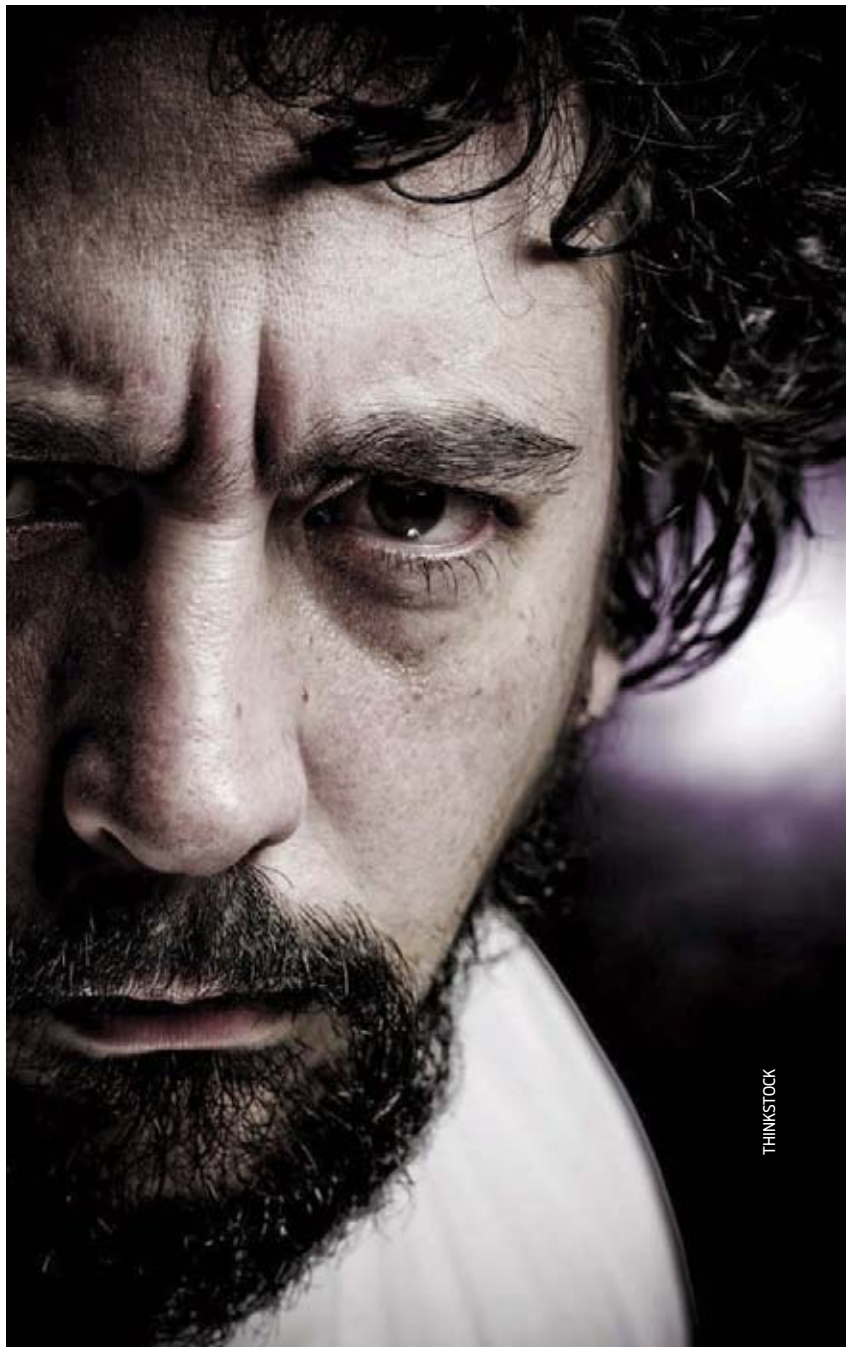
Survivability: 9

Personal Liability: 4

Special Skill: Intimidation

Identifying Attributes: DIY prosthetics

The idea of a “lone” wolf in your camp may seem contradictory. But even loners need to barter with other survivors now and then. If you're able to get a Lone Wolf to join up (at least temporarily), you've got a formidable ally. A battle-hardened fighter, strategic thinker and skilled negotiator, this person stays alive like a post-apoc cockroach. Just keep in mind that the reason the Lone Wolf may still be alive is because someone else isn't.



THINKSTOCK

BREAKDOWN BETTY

Survivability: 3

Personal Liability: 3 - 7

Special Skill: Fetal Position Mastery

Identifying Attributes: Puffy Eyes

More of a carry-along than a companion, Breakdown Betty hasn't come to terms with humanity's new place on the food chain. And she never lets you forget it. Prone to zombie-bait hysterics, Betty and her brains are an inevitable snack for a passing biter. Your odds of going down with this morale-killer increase with your compassion level.

Party Crashers

At first, a survival party might sound akin to a hurricane party, an excuse to expose yourself to life-threatening danger while serving drinks and snacks. But during the zombie apocalypse, this party is the real deal. If you don't pay attention to the undead threat that surrounds you, you'll end up as the snack. Your cracked skull will become the party bowl, filled with a delicious brain pâté, as your "party" is crashed by the worst guests ever—the zombie horde from down the street.



THINKSTOCK



THE LOOSE CANNON

Survivability: 7

Personal Liability: 8

Special Skill: Surprise!

Identifying Attributes: Throbbing Neck Veins

Almost always on edge, The Loose Cannon's potential to snap at any moment can be a boon and a detriment. Quick and unpredictable reactions when cornered could lead to either a melee frenzy that clears a room of walkers or a self-serving escape that leaves you to fend for yourself. The Loose Cannon might dispatch a building filled to the brim with undead and not blink only to fly into a rage at an offhand comment. Never a dull moment!

THINKSTOCK

THE BUDDY

Survivability: 8

Personal Liability: 2

Special Skill: Unwavering Rationality

Identifying Attributes: Silent, Understanding Nods

Equal parts confidant, backup and conscience, The Buddy keeps the faith while facing reality. He or she keeps a cool head under pressure, is competent in combat and maintains faith in humanity despite the horrors witnessed. If you're good at pointing out the harsh reality of what needs to be done but aren't responsible for executing, you may be The Buddy.



THINKSTOCK

Plan Ahead

Don't wait until the last minute to round up people from your neighborhood when the apocalypse comes knocking on your door. Start making a list of characteristics your office-mates and fellow condo-owners possess. That snarly guy in accounting might actually own a few guns and could make a good wingman. That little old lady down the

hall who always gives you homemade baked goods might know how to whip up a terrific coyote stew. That weird neighbor who's always working on his car in your driveway might be able to build a zombie-proof SUV. Everything changes when the zombies come to town, so start making friends now with those people who could help you survive.

THE FAMILY MAN

Survivability: 5

Personal Liability: 5

Special Skill: Self-Sacrifice

Identifying Attributes: Wife and Kids

He may not have won "Father of the Year" before the outbreak, but he's making up for it now. Fiercely loyal and protective, he can be a solid ally. But remember, if it comes down to you or his offspring, it's family first. That commitment may eventually be The Family Man's undoing due to a willingness to put himself in danger to buy time for his family's escape. It's noble but generally works only once. If he fails in his protector role, he has the potential to become The Loose Cannon (previous page) or Surrogate Dad (on opposite page).



THINKSTOCK

SURROGATE DAD (or MOM)

Survivability: 3

Personal Liability: 2

Special Skill: Wistful Memory Recall

Identifying Attributes: Lack of Wife and Kids



It may seem wrong to capitalize on tragedy, but Surrogate Dad's catastrophic family loss can be your benefit. Assuming a father figure role for your group as a whole, Surrogate Dad can get a bit preachy and overprotective. But you can be sure he'll protect you even at his own peril, because whatever happened before, he will not let it happen again.

NERVOUS NED

Survivability: 4

Personal Liability: 8

Special Skill: Eagle Eye

Identifying Attributes: The Shakes

Every party needs a scout and lookout. A play-it-safe middle manager in pre-Z life, Nervous Ned seems perfect at first because his heightened paranoia helps him hear and spot far-off shambling corpses. The downside is he eventually sees them everywhere. There! Behind that tree! No, it's a raccoon. And while everyone was looking at the raccoon, a pack of zombies shuffled up behind you. In films, this unlikely hero calms his trembling hands at just the right moment to pull off a perfectly timed headshot. When you're grappling with a zombie, he will—but you'll be the one with a bullet in the brainpan.

If Nervous Ned does manage to keep his cowardice in check and demonstrates a high IQ or ability to fix things, he may get upgraded to The Brain.



THINKSTOCK

THE PRINCESS

Survivability: 8

Personal Liability: 5

Special Skill: Feminine Wiles

Identifying Attributes: Impractical Attire

The Princess was a semi-pro crazy maker in her former life, manipulating people to get what she wanted and leaving conflict in her wake. Things haven't changed much. A big plus is that she's skilled at attracting people suited to keeping her—and your group, by extension—alive. But her quest for self-preservation leads to shifting attentions and bruised egos that cause discord in your ranks. **Z**

Sean Kavanagh (@TheSteakman) created Steak's Stop-N-Squatch to meet your sasquatch-related fashion needs (<http://bit.ly/StopNSquatch>). He wonders if zombies crave Bigfoot brains and hopes to never meet an undead 'squatch.



THINKSTOCK

W A R M I N G

Buyer's Guide SURVIVE

BY BETHANY MILLER

So you've escaped the zombies, either after successfully fighting them off or by running for your life. But now what? Do you avoid becoming undead only to suffer dehydration or hypothermia and end up actually dead? With no guarantee of assistance or access to food, shelter or water, you'll want to have an emergency kit ready at a moment's notice—and here are some valuable items you may want to include.



MRE Entrée Assorted 12-Pack

COMPANY: Major Surplus

WEBSITE: www.majorsurplus.com

MSRP: \$35.95

In the event of a zombie apocalypse, grocery stores rank high on the list of places to avoid; they're all too likely to attract those who are desperate for food, and in turn, zombies desperate for brains. A mobile pantry is impractical when you're on the run, so for those who lack the skills to hunt their dinner, Meals Ready to Eat (MREs) are the perfect solution. This 12-pack includes options such as beef, chicken and pasta that require no refrigeration or cooking and will last for up to five years.



Katadyn MyBottle Purifier

COMPANY: Major Surplus

WEBSITE: www.majorsurplus.com

MSRP: \$59.95

The average human can survive for up to eight weeks without food, but only three to five days at most without water. The savvy fugitive will need a way to purify water, and this easily portable filtration system will do the trick, removing microorganisms from water well enough to earn the EPA's stamp of approval. Best of all, it's small enough to fit into a standard water bottle.



Metalized Emergency Blanket (10-pack)

COMPANY: Major Surplus

WEBSITE: www.majorsurplus.com

MSRP: \$20.95

If zombies attack in the dead of winter, how will you keep warm while on the run? Don't be fooled by the compact, lightweight size of this Mylar blanket; it's designed to trap body heat and works so effectively it's military-issue. Available in a 10-pack, you'll have plenty to spare without creating extra bulk.



Bug-Out Bags

COMPANY: Survival Bags Inc.

WEBSITE: www.survivalbagsinc.com

MSRP: \$309.95 (Combat Pack) and \$329.95 (Outdoor)

Survival experts recommend preparing a bug-out bag for any catastrophe—and a zombie apocalypse is no exception. Survival Bags Inc. has done all the work for you, providing a variety of pre-packed bags. These two options include necessities from MREs to emergency water packets, from first aid kits to paracords, fire starting supplies to blankets, basic hygiene products to flashlights, and everything in between, all condensed into sturdy backpacks.



Buyer's Guide SURVIVE

Currency of the Zombie Apocalypse

COMPANY: Engaged Enthusiast Media

WEBSITE: www.engagedmediamags.com

MSRP: \$4.95

True, a simple coin might not have any immediate practical survival value—but this is no ordinary coin. This copper piece, easily mistaken for a penny at first glance, features a zombieified Lady Liberty on its front, and on the reverse, a biohazard symbol. Who knows, it might be the new lucky penny, and in a zombie apocalypse, you'll need all the luck you can get!



Adventure Bracelet

COMPANY: Wazoo Survival Gear

WEBSITE:

www.wazoosurvivalgear.com

MSRP: \$65

When fleeing the undead horde, traveling light is crucial, and a paracord bracelet makes that easy! A paracord on its own has a myriad uses, and this bracelet ups the ante with a total of 18 cleverly integrated survival tools for first aid, navigation, building shelter and many other functions.

Diamond Strykezone 350 Treestand Crossbow

COMPANY: Extreme-Ops

WEBSITE: www.extreme-ops.com

MSRP: \$529.99



The same crossbow used by Daryl Dixon in *The Walking Dead* on season three and four, the StrykeZone 350 drives bolts at a searing 350 FPS. This assembly features easy to draw 135 lbs. draw weight limbs. It comes equipped with Octane string and cables for maximum quality and precision-engineered cams with an unbelievable 19.5 inch axle-to-axle measurement and a 15.5 inch power stroke! Combine all of that with the Kill Switch™ trigger, and this crossbow is bound to come in handy for hunting food in the wild, where zombies rarely venture.



SRT Rescue

COMPANY: FAMARS USA

WEBSITE: www.famarsusa.com

MSRP: \$199

In keeping with the theme of multipurpose survival assets, a good multitool fits ultimate versatility into a compact form. This model, made from 154CM and 6061 T6 steels, includes a one-handed opening liner lock knife, internal LEDs, belt cutter, oversized scissors, wire cutter/pliers, Phillips and flat screwdriver and bottle/can opener.



Surge multitool

COMPANY: Leatherman

WEBSITE:

www.leatherman.com

MSRP: \$123.80 - \$135.90

You'll be hard-pressed to find a company with a better reputation for producing tough multitools than Leatherman. When your life is at stake, why settle for anything less than the best? The company's 100 percent stainless steel Surge model features needle nose pliers, regular pliers, wire cutters, hard-wire cutters, stranded-wire cutters, electrical crimper, 420HC plain-edge knife, 420HC serrated knife, saw, scissors, wood/metal file, diamond-coated file, blade exchanger, large bit driver, small bit driver, large screwdriver, awl with thread loop, 9-inch ruler, bottle opener, can opener and wire stripper.

The Top Ten Zombie Blogs

Cyber advice you'll need to survive the Apocalypse

BY MARCUS GOODYEAR

When the zombie apocalypse comes, we'll have our hands full. Food will rot in refrigerators. Cars will run out of gas. And the Internet will go down.

Just when we need them most, our smart phones will no longer be smart. The greatest archive of information to help us fight zombies will power down. I'm talking about the zombie blogs, of course. But you, dear reader, can be prepared for the apocalypse by printing out a hard copy of all the wisdom contained in the top ten zombie blogs.

Read them online if you want to save paper. But remember, when the zombies take down the grid, your screen time will end forever. Browse while you still can!

Marcus Goodyear lives in Kerrville, Texas, with his wife and two kids. He watches zombie movies alone at night because everyone else in the house prefers Dr. Who.



GENE PAGE/AMC/THE WALKING DEAD

Yes, he's giving you the, "You were an idiot to wait this long to go online," look. You have one option now. Run!

Daily Dead

www.dailydead.com

Continuously publishing since 2010, Jonathan James and the Daily Dead editors promise a daily dose of horror and science fiction news, with a heavy emphasis on zombies. Tending toward zombie culture, recent Daily Dead headlines still include a fair number of references to non-zombie items.

The Zombie Nation

www.thezombienation.com

Because there aren't enough angsty, fun zombie comics in the world, Carter Reid launched The Zombie Nation as a New Year's Resolution in 2009. Four years later he's still going strong with a world of zombies struggling through their hilariously messy immortal relationship problems.



Part of an on-going comic strip illustrated by Carter Reid, and posted on his site, The Zombie Nation, this on-going comic strip features characters such as Sheila Revenant and Richard Moon.



Another one of the comic strips illustrated by Carter Reid that are regularly featured on his site, The Zombie Nation.

“Of course, **after the apocalypse**, the site will be less useful.”

DAVID INDISH/BRICKS OF THE DEAD/BRICKS OF THE DEAD



Bricks of the Dead

www.bricksofthedeath.com

Two words: Zombies and LEGOs. Bricks of the Dead is primarily a LEGO zombie comic nearing episode 400. The author also features a weekly LEGO zombie creation, because, as he says, “There’s a lot of zombie stuff out there, and most of it is crap.” In a world of ‘crap culture,’ Bricks of the Dead is a perfectly playful apocalyptic salve.

Sam proves himself to the group when he distracts a horde of zombies with a boom box and a crowbar.

The Zombie Bible

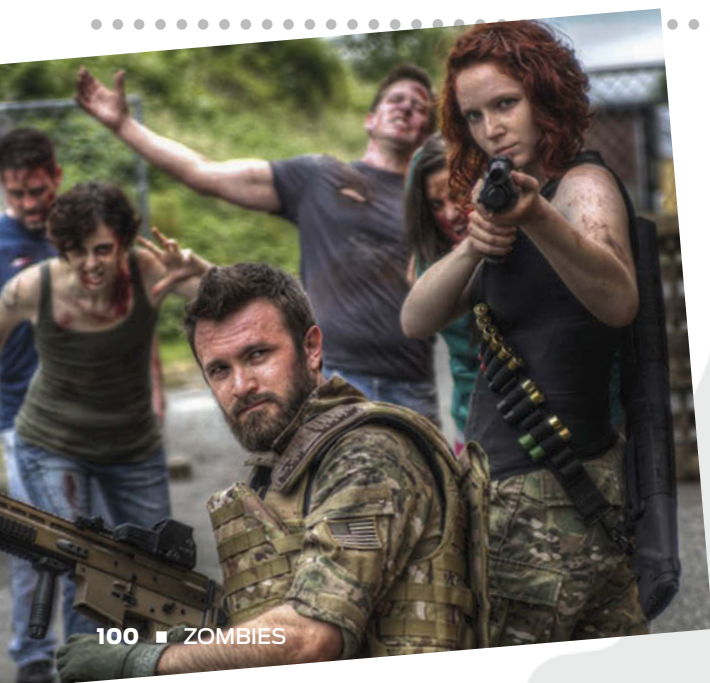
www.stantlittore.com

Stant Litore is the author of The Zombie Bible Trilogy. These days he is posting weekly video updates at his new site, but his vulnerable, personal essays are still the heart of his blog. You can browse both sites for hundreds of book reviews, interviews, and theological reflections about the undead.



AMC/THE WALKING DEAD

If you’d done your online homework you’d know, one blow to the head is not enough to kill these guys. Even the crawlers can give you a nasty bite that will invite you into their dark land of the undead.

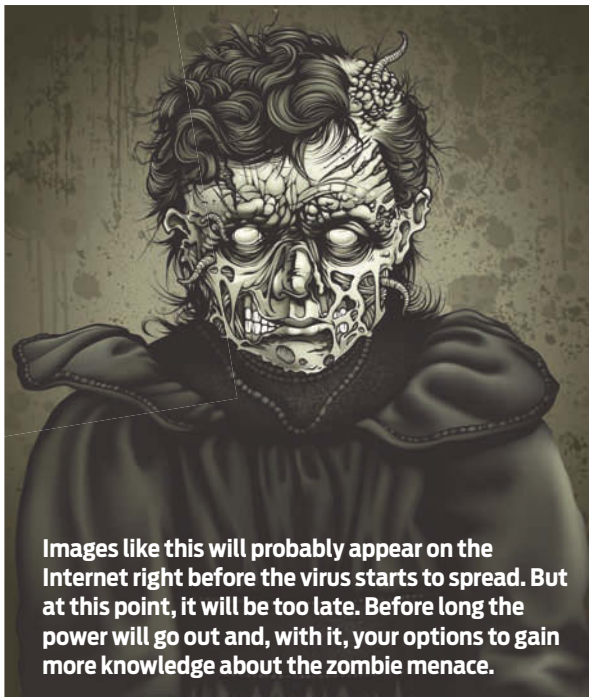


Night Zero

www.nightzero.com

In 2008, Anthony van Winkle launched Night Zero, an incredible series of photographic comics. Yes, so the series and the production blog ended just a few months ago. It is still one of the coolest zombie blogs out there. If you haven’t seen it yet, you are in for hours of photoshop advice and zombie fun.

Night Zero is set in an apocalyptic Seattle, where survivors battle zombies and struggle to stay to alive, and the story—which takes place over twenty comics and five books—is told in photos.



Images like this will probably appear on the Internet right before the virus starts to spread. But at this point, it will be too late. Before long the power will go out and, with it, your options to gain more knowledge about the zombie menace.

NIGHTZERO/WWW.NIGHTZERO.COM

Grey Zombie

www.greyzombie.com

If you are looking for zombie runs or film festivals, Daniel Grey's Grey Zombie is a great place to browse. If you are hosting a zombie run or film festival, then you owe it to yourself to submit your event to the Grey Zombie. Of course, after the apocalypse, the site will be less useful. No one will need a schedule of zombie events when the world becomes a never-ending zombie run.

We're Alive

www.zombiepodcast.com

Now in its fourth season, this zombie survival story follows a small band of soldiers in L.A. as they battle the dead, defend their bunker from rivals, and try to build some stability for themselves. And the sound editing can't be beat. When the real apocalypse comes, you'll love reading the transcript to your friends before you are eaten by illiterate zombie hordes.

This is how to use your laptop during a zombie apocalypse—a good bash on the head while you're sprinting in the other direction.



THINKSTOCK

Sitting in front of a keyboard all day long may make you feel like a zombie, but once the virus spreads, you'll know the truth. The undead have no use for computers.

Survival Cache

www.survivalcache.com

The guys from National Geographic's Apocalypse 101 offer some great insights into gear you'll need to survive. It's not a zombie blog per se, but their practical posts will keep you inspired and surviving long after the magazines have ceased to print and the cable companies are overrun by the dead.



THINKSTOCK

Best of all, she draws herself into the strip **wearing an emotive bear hat and swinging a mean shovel.**

Zombie Research Society

www.zombieresearchsociety.com

One of the best overall zombie blogs at the moment, the Zombie Research Society posts regularly in categories like Zombie Science, Zombie Survival, Zombie Culture, and (my favorite) Netflix Zombie Movies. During the real apocalypse, you'll be grateful for the "Apocalypse Yum" series, offering practical culinary wisdom like spicing up your pigeon meat with hamburger helper. **Z**



AMC/THE WALKING DEAD

If this guy is knocking on your door, it's too late. Don't wait until you're surrounded to gather up the information you need to survive!



JENNY ROMANCHUK/THE ZOMBIE HUNTERS

Jenny Romanchuk's vocation? Killing zombies with her shovel while Charlie, The Half Life stands watch.

The Zombie Hunters

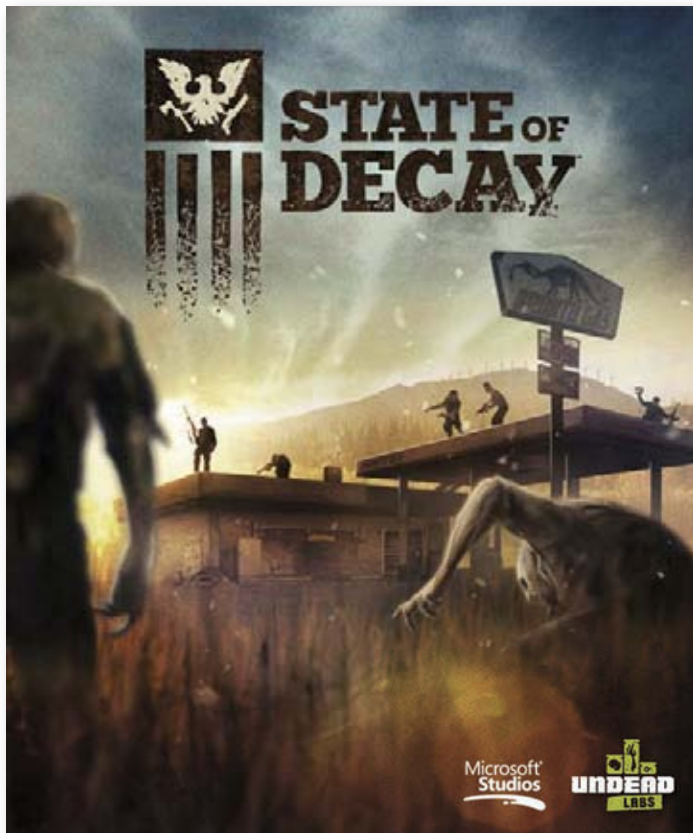
www.thezombiehunters.com

When your zombie comic inspires cosplay, you know you deserve to be on this list. Jenny Romanchuk has nearly 20 episodes already available, and her artwork keeps getting better and better. Best of all, she draws herself into the strip wearing an emotive bear hat and swinging a mean shovel.

Virtual Zombieland

Two open-world video games possess very different perspectives on the zombie apocalypse.

BY SEAN KAVANAGH



State of Decay

Think you're qualified to shepherd a band of desperate zombie outbreak survivors? State of Decay is your chance to prove it. This open world game emphasizes the frequently neglected aspect of survival horror. Scrounging for supplies, fighting depression among your crew, and fortifying your safe houses take precedence over running and gunning heroics.

There are plenty of tense combat encounters with the undead, but State of Decay is as much simulation and role-playing game as it is an action title. Where other games ask players to perform superficial fetch quests, this one makes gathering precious fuel, food, or ammo a consistent requirement. Simple acts like rifling through a desk for supplies generates tension—the temptation to rush is hard to resist, but the noise from doing so risks attracting unaware zombies.

Publisher: Microsoft Game Studios

Developer: Undead Labs

Platform: PC, Xbox 360

Price: \$19.99

“Let's face it, zombie killing is better with friends.”



It's also a game about tough choices. Rescuing a new survivor may mean foregoing much-needed supplies, leading to displeasure back at base. But leaving endangered characters to fend for themselves could mean sacrificing potential allies with specialized medical or gardening skills to keep your group strong. A sexy weapon might be best-used donated to the community locker where NPCs can take it for their autonomous mission needs.

Community management is a core gameplay component. Earning a character's friendship unlocks the ability to switch to that person so others can rest. Characters have a limited amount of stamina and everyone eventually needs some downtime from zombie fighting.

Swapping characters provides the chance to level skills through

use. Shoot more, become a better marksman. Stick to axes, become a melee specialist. Just keep in mind that everyone is vulnerable—even seemingly integral characters can die.

State of Decay's approach may be too true-to-life at times. Scavenging can become a repetitive chore. Activity progresses when players are out of the game and the constant sense of being on the clock to keep survivors safe and stocked-up leaves little time to explore or experiment. In addition, there are technical glitches like object pop-up and clipping. Discovering zombies partially embedded in doors and walls is commonplace. Despite its rough edges, State of Decay is a unique chance for gamers to test their post-apocalypse leadership skills and is well worth trying.

Playing Toward a Breakdown

Players looking for added challenge in State of Decay's sandbox without the constraints of a storyline will want to grab the downloadable content expansion State of Decay: Breakdown. An exercise in endurance, the DLC's survival mode ramps up the pressure the longer you play. There are more "freak" and fast zombies in the mix, plus zombies get tougher and hit harder as you progress. Resources and cars are also scarcer, and you'll need to keep pushing into scarier territory to make safe(ish) havens and find supplies. The expansion's title could well refer to your emotional state by the time things get really nasty.





Publisher: Microsoft Game Studios

Developer: Capcom Vancouver

Platform: Xbox One

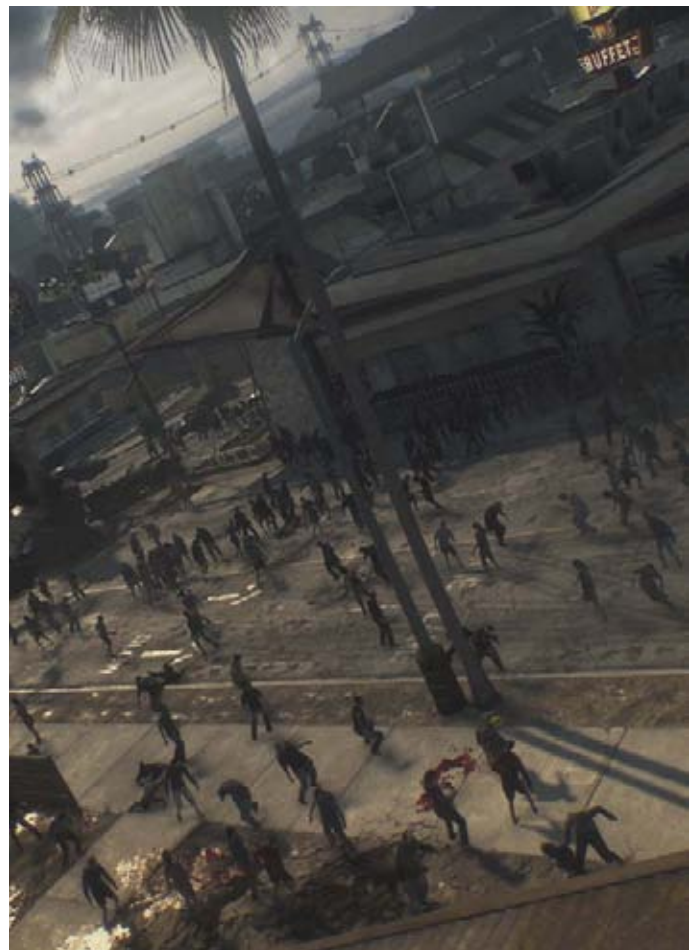
Price: \$59.99



Dead Rising 3

If State of Decay's realistic zombie nightmare portrayal becomes too emotionally draining, Dead Rising 3 provides pure undead escapism. Its open world highlights over-the-top characters, crazy weapons and re-killing hordes of undead.

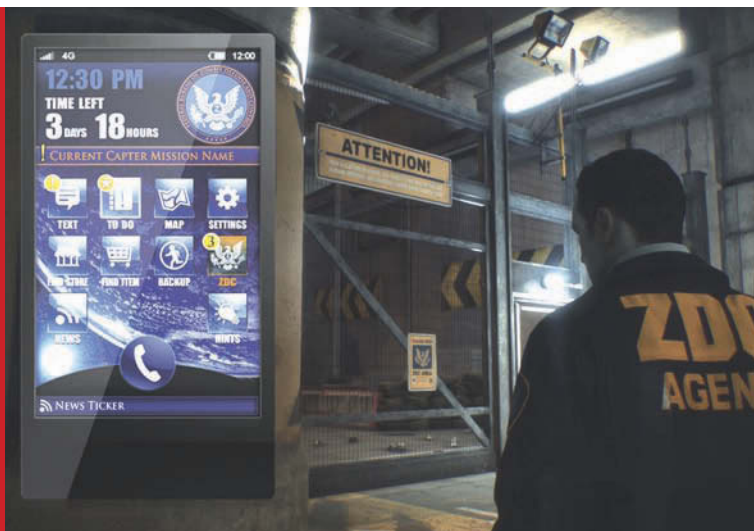
Players step into the shoes of auto mechanic Nick Ramos, an outbreak survivor who puts his fix-it skills to good use creating ridiculous zombie-slaying weapons from everyday items. The sprawling city of Los Perdidos is a sandbox filled with hundreds of objects to combine for deadly and humorous results.



Tapping DR3's Second-Screen Features

To run the Xbox One SmartGlass companion app, all you need is a Windows 8, iOS or Android smartphone or tablet. When Nick finds a smartphone early in the Dead Rising 3 story, your mobile device connects as a Zombie Defense and Control PDA that provides these perks and more:

- Mission tracker, hints and checklists
- Los Perdidos news ticker and map
- Weapon and vehicle finder
- ZDC military support, including drone guns, flares, and airstrikes
- Exclusive missions and rewards



Some combinations are practical, such as the handgun and flashlight combo. For something more exotic, mix a table saw with a sledgehammer to carve and crush through the zombie throngs. But why settle when you can combine a teddy bear, bicycle, grenade launcher and boom box? Take this super combo weapon through crowds and lure zombies with the sound, then blow them to bits.

Expert mechanic Nick can also mash up vehicles. Clogged streets? No problem! Just combine a motorcycle with a steamroller and roll on through. Be careful, though. Zombies can grab onto vehicles and affect their steering.

Wacky outfits further illustrate DR3's spirit. Feel free to frolic in a flowered sundress, battle in a banana hammock, or slaughter in a shark costume. Just because you can.

The Xbox One hardware lets DR3 present Los Perdidos as one seamless level and renders a staggering number of zombies

at once, rivaling the experience usually reserved for big-budget movies. It's terrifying when a fence buckles under a horde's pressure and the undead swarm into a previously safe area. Fortunately, players can also take advantage of destructible environments for creative escapes.

DR3 taps cutting-edge technology in other ways. The Kinect sensor's microphone lets players draw zombies away from vulnerable characters by shouting to get their attention. The free Xbox One SmartGlass mobile app lets players use smartphones or tablets as a second screen to display the map, call airstrikes, and communicate with characters.

Gamers familiar with the Dead Rising series may be pleased to



discover the franchise's notorious time and save limitations are now optional. Plus, drop-in co-op lets friends join the fun and then bring collected experience, story progress, and weapon blueprints back to their own games. And let's face it, zombie killing is better with friends. **Z**

When not battling the undead, Sean Kavanagh (@TheSteakman) makes words and produces films with Lemon Fresh Bastards. Watch out! Their award-winning horror short Mirror Lake <http://bit.ly/MirrorLakeFilm> may be playing at a festival near you.

Old versus New

One Movie Era Reluctantly Gives Way To Another,
As The Zombie Threat Continues To Grow

BY MIKE DURAN



Calling the zombies in *World War Z* fast is an understatement. The ghoulish undead creatures in this movie seem to have one objective alone—to infect the living.

Using a handheld HD digital camera to film the movie *28 Days Later* did more than just mark a new era in Hollywood filmmaking. Danny Boyle's rotting antagonists may have marked the beginning of a new breed of celluloid zombie. Of course, the purists continue to debate whether the virus-ridden, flesh eating hordes of *28 Days Later* are truly zom-

bies or just the "Infected." What's not disputable is the impact this new breed had upon the genre. The director challenged the first law of undead ambulation: MPH. Up to that point, "fast zombie" was an oxymoron. But that changed when the walking dead of Boyle's imagining caught a whiff of fresh meat and went from shambling, to trotting, to flat-out hauling ass.

PARAMOUNT PICTURES/WORLD WAR Z

In *World War Z*, teeming zombie hordes climb on top of one another, desperate to make their way over the wall that surrounds and protects Israel.



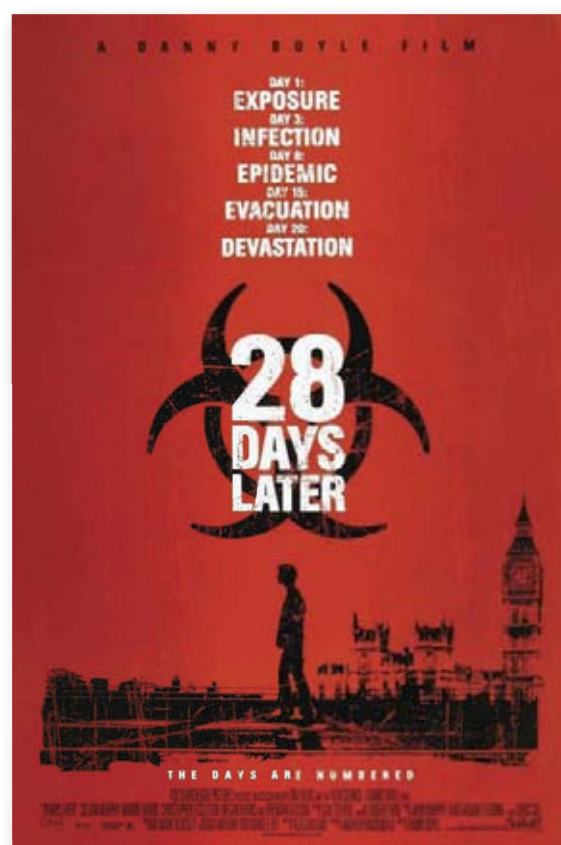
Thus, zombiedom turned a corner.

As the genre hobbled through infancy, morphing as it went, *Zombie 2.0* has proven to be quite the resourceful little bugger. The shuffling, glassy-eyed dead of Romero's *Night of the Living Dead* have reached adulthood, becoming quite feral in the process. Sprinting, leaping, and climbing walls are just a few of the newfound attributes of the moldering archetype. George would hardly recognize his baby.

It's hard to say for sure where zombie eras divide. Romero's *Day of the Dead* seemed to close the book on the "old school" walking dead, as zombie lore returned to hibernation. But with the recent revival of the genre, a new era of zombie has risen.

What are the distinctives of old versus new era zombie?

“With the recent revival of the genre, a new era of zombie has risen.”



28 Days Later falls into a transitional category, paving the way for a new era in zombie films.

Voodoo vs. Virus

Old era zombies, like those in *White Zombie* (1932) were reanimated through black magic and other supernatural, as opposed to biological, means. All that was required was Bela Legosi's evil eye and "zombie grip" to enslave the undead for his nefarious purposes. Likewise, Wes Craven's *The Serpent and the Rainbow* (1988) draws life from the Haitian voodoo culture. The film is loosely based on the non-fiction book of the same name by ethnobotanist

Wade Davis, who recounted his experiences in Haiti while investigating the story of a man who was allegedly poisoned, buried alive, and revived with an herbal concoction. Then there's Sam Raimi's cult classic *The Evil Dead* (1981) in which corpses were quickened through incantations from the Naturon Demonto, and possessed by evil spirits.

Shambling vs. Sprinting

Perhaps one of the biggest differences between zombie eras is RPMs. While the old era was more about tracking meat, the new seems bent on a track meet. In an age where speed is a commodity, is it any wonder we've required our undead to pick up the pace? In Max

“Our latent fear of global pandemics seems to have reached full gestation in the new era.”

Movies to Check Out

Don't know whether you're more fond of old era or new era zombies? Check out the following movies and decide for yourself.

Old Era:

Night of the Living Dead
Day of the Dead
White Zombie
The Serpent and the Rainbow
The Evil Dead

Transitional:

28 Days Later

New Era:

World War Z
The Walking Dead (TV series)
Resident Evil
Dawn of the Dead
Land of the Dead

On the other side, are films like Boyle's *28 Days Later* wherein a virulent plague—man-made, in this case—turns the populace into hungry ghouls. No spells required. No necromancers necessary. Only scientists, who prove to be far worse than any metaphysician. Our latent fear of global pandemics seems to have reached full gestation in the new era, as the plot behind *World War Z* (2013) centers around the frantic search for a vaccine to stop the plague, and uncover Patient Zero. Even AMC's smash series, *The Walking Dead*, hints that the zombie virus is latent in every human being, waiting anxiously for our demise.

So whether it's a spell cast or a germ caught, each era has its vehicle for initiation.

Brooks' tongue-in-cheek tutorial, *The Zombie Survival Guide*, the author notes, "Zombies appear to be incapable of running. The fastest have been observed to move at a rate of barely one step per 1.5 seconds." Contrast that with the walking dead of *World War Z* who swarm, rather than shuffle. In fact, in the film, the time between being bitten by a zombie to becoming a rabid cohort is less than 15 seconds. So much for shambling.

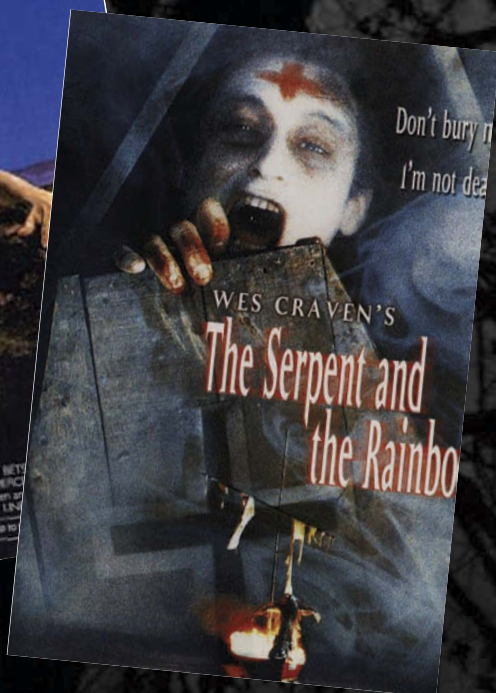
Some have suggested that old era zombies just aren't that scary. I mean, how threatening is someone who moves slower than your great-grandmother? Of course, old era filmmakers usually compensated by having their damsel in distress stumble, break a heel, or run herself into a corner. But don't

underestimate the lumbering dead. After all, flesh-eating bacteria can be as terminal as a shark attack. It's just... slower.

CGI vs. Splatter

Splatter horror cinema is seldom ded as groundbreaking. "Gut-breaking" may be the more appropriate term. From the beginning, creators of the genre have sought creative ways to decapitate and disembowel their theatrical victims. Cheaply. On a modest budget of 100 (\$966,000 adjusted for inflation), George Romero's *Night of the Living Dead* managed by using chocolate syrup for blood. It opened the door to a new breed of special effects artists proficient in busting a gut. The evolution from Hershey's Chocolate to simulated brain matter was quick. For the old era of practical effects artist, prosthetics, animal carcasses, and even sheep intestines, were used to garnish zombie meals.

The new era of zombie films, by comparison, often foregoes such B-movie fare in place of far more expensive computer-generated special effects. Films like *Resident Evil* (2002) reached near CGI sensory-overload with wave upon wave of digitized undead. Of course, the cost for this is astronomical. But who needs to mess with movie extras when you can just digitally insert an entire army?



In the old era, zombies were slow and dull-witted, while the special effects were somewhat limited.

Eating Brains versus Using Brains

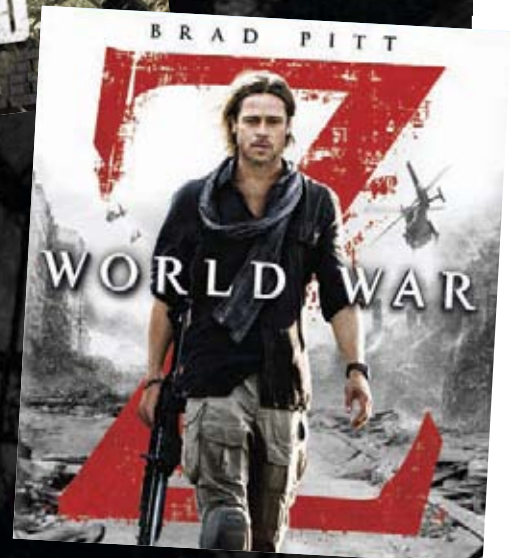
Somewhere in their evolution, however, zombies upped their IQ.

For example, not only are the zombies in the remake of *Dawn of the Dead* (2004) quite frenetic, they seemed to have something left in their noodle. Like the scene in the subterranean parking structure when a legless shrieking ghoul flies into view using a zipline, kamakaze style, to drop upon its victim. As our Neanderthal ancestors who, in a spark of genius, used a rock for a bludgeon, the new era undead have similar moments of transcendence. Bricks, tools, knives, even automatic weapons are now within their grasp, literally and figuratively. Perhaps the singular classic example is Big Daddy from *Land of the Dead* (2005) who not only figures out how to use an M-16, he teaches his decomposing compadres how to stand backup.

Talk about brain power!

Old or new era? It's your choice. Whether you prefer them milling about the mall or hurtling through the street, victims of a voodoo priest or a nutty virologist, there's a zombie for every taste. **Z**

Author of The Resurrection and The Telling, Mike Duran has long been fascinated by the narrow bridge that separates humans from zombies.



In the new era—rather than falling prey to black magic—people are more likely to become a zombie if infected with a zombie virus.

No More Mindless Zombies

Outsmarting zombies used to be easy. A few boards, some nails, a meat cleaver, a getaway car, and occasional misdirection were all you needed to avoid becoming dinner. The only brains that old era zombies needed were the kind they ate. Thus, “mindless zombie” was redundant, a metaphor for politicians, telemarketers, and fans of daytime television. However, somewhere in their evolution, zombies upped their IQ.

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Tabletop Terror and Triumph

Playing these games could save your life!

BY SEAN KAVANAGH

Games aren't just for fun. They also help you master skills that will be invaluable when the dead rise. Some build teamwork skills with collaborative gameplay.

Others help you think like your enemy, letting you shamle in a zombie's shoes. Best of all, they let you bond with other potential survivors before the outbreak.

ZOMBIE FLUXX

Price: \$16

Publisher: Looney Labs

Players: 2-6

www.looneylabs.com

Adaptability is crucial when dealing with the undead and *Zombie Fluxx* is the perfect card game to help you get in the right frame of mind. Things start simple enough. Each player starts with three cards and there's one rule: Draw a card and play a card. However, the rules can change with any player's turn. Everything from the number of cards players can hold to the winning goal can change in a flash. It's even possible for everyone to lose! *Zombie Fluxx* is chaotic, fast-paced, and requires more strategy than you might think.

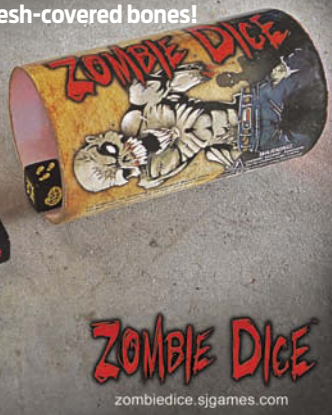
SURVIVAL TRAIT THIS GAME ENFORCES: FLEXIBILITY



Zombie Creeper cards can be good or bad, depending on the rules in play.



Roll those necrotic-flesh-covered bones!



ZOMBIE DICE

Price: \$13.13

Publisher: Steve Jackson Games

Players: 2+

www.sjgames.com

Regardless of personal skill, survival sometimes comes down to luck. Since Zombie Dice casts players as the undead, some might argue luck is already in short supply. But zombies need to eat too and your willingness to press your luck with dice rolls mean the difference between a brain banquet or a shotgun blast. The first person to get 13 brains wins, but don't get too greedy. If you collect three shotgun blasts your turn's over and you score nothing.

SURVIVAL TRAIT THIS GAME ENFORCES: LUCK



When society breaks down, you may need to be ruthless to survive.

ZOMBIES!!!

Price: \$24.99

Publisher: Twilight Creations, Inc.

Players: 2-6

www.twilightcreationsinc.com

A chopper with one open seat is your only ticket out of town. Unfortunately, every other desperate survivor has the same idea and streets filled with walkers stand between you and the helipad. The tile-based board is different every game, you have limited bullets, and special event cards offer players the chance to reveal their cutthroat natures. There's only one thing you can count on as the miniature zombies advance—nice guys finish (un)dead.

SURVIVAL TRAIT THIS GAME ENFORCES: SELF-PRESERVATION

Location, Location, Location

Zombies!!! expansion sets let players test their zombie-fighting prowess in a college, prison, carnival, and more locations.

CITY OF HORROR

Price: \$49.99

Publisher: Asmodee

Players: 3-6

www.asmodee.com



Who can you trust? No one.

The zombies just keep coming. There's no way to beat them, your only hope is to stay alive four more hours until airlift rescue arrives. If you think survival in the post-Z world is just about strength or straight shooting, you won't last long. Negotiating with the living is paramount for getting your crew the food, meds, and shelter they need. But diplomacy has a dark side. Dissolve alliances, break promises, stab backs, and sacrifice the weak to ensure that your survivors (or most of them) will last until help comes.

SURVIVAL TRAIT THIS GAME ENFORCES: DIPLOMACY



Even more zombie fun

For more Zombicide adventures, check out the recently released *Toxic City Mall* expansion and standalone *Zombicide Season Two: Prison Outbreak* game.

ZOMBICIDE

Price: \$89.99

Publisher: Guillotine Games

Players: 1-6

www.guillotinegames.com

When undead danger is all around and the slightest sound could be your undoing, you need friends who have your back. Successfully completing your team's missions requires coordinated strategy in this collaborative miniature game (solo rules are also included). Search the city for weapons, clear buildings, and work together to survive. The good news is characters become more powerful as they slay zombies. The bad news is that the zombies also get tougher and more plentiful as the game progresses.

SURVIVAL TRAIT THIS GAME ENFORCES: TEAMWORK



Zombicide's miniatures are wonderfully detailed, but feel free to make them your own with a custom paint job.

ZOMBIE APOCALYPSE GEOCACHING

Price: \$17.95

Publisher: DPH Games Inc.

Players: 2-4

www.dphgames.com

Zombies and self-serving survivors aren't the only thing to worry about during a zombie apocalypse. When city dwellers and suburbanites are forced to seek safety in sparser areas, orienteering skills will be a big asset. In this expansion pack to *Cache Me If You Can!*



GPS? Check. Boots? Check. Explosive Ammo? Check. Let's go hiking!

(\$60), a zombie outbreak turns a friendly geocaching hunt into a quest for survival. You'll even keep your geocaching skills if the zombies force you into their ranks—but to win, you'll have to turn your remaining human buddies and get the best score.

SURVIVAL TRAIT THIS GAME ENFORCES: ORIENTEERING

Sean Kavanagh (@TheSteakman) is a digital engagement specialist who writes about games and technology. He recommends packing dice in your zombie survival Go Bag. They help pass the time and can be used to decide who gets left behind. **Z**

'Appy Times for Zombie Lovers

Great games for your smartphone or tablet.

BY MARGARET KAVANAGH

While waiting for the inevitable zombie incursion to begin, you're sure to have some downtime. And while you'll probably put that idle time to good use, remember

that all work and no play makes Jack a murderous psychopath. Don't become a murderous psychopath—instead, spend your spare time wisely with a few of our favorite zombie-related apps.

“Your car is surrounded by hordes of zombies that will stop at nothing to make sure you're their next meal.”



Age of Zombies

By Halfbrick Studios

Available for Apple and Android devices (\$0.99)

Battling zombies is a time-honored pursuit, or at least that's true for this game's hero, Barry Steakfries. Join Barry and travel through eras including pre-history, the Wild West and ancient Egypt to battle zombie cavemen, zombie ninjas, zombie mummies and more. This fast-paced shooter still makes time for plenty of cheesy one-liners. Choose between story mode and survival mode to test your skills on up to eight different boards. Warning: The swarming zombies just keep coming, so make sure you have some free time on your hands when you launch this app.



No matter what your favorite flavor of zombie—caveman, ninja, mummy—Age of Zombies keeps them coming at you.



Plants vs. Zombies 2

By PopCap Entertainment

Available for Apple and Android devices (Free)

Join Crazy Dave and sidekick Penny in their time-machine van for this multiple-era-spanning update of the battle of flora and the undead. New plants, like the barreling Bonk Choy and gas-inducing Chili Bean, pack an added wallop, but the basic logic of growing your leafy defense against rambling zombies remains the same. Bonus: New mini-games add variety and earn you rewards like new plant types and added sun power. BlackBerry users can enjoy the original Plants vs. Zombies released by Electronic Arts for \$4.99.

Plants vs. Zombies strikes again in this new version of the popular app by PopCap Entertainment.



Earn to Die

By Not Doppler

Available for Apple and Android devices (\$0.99)

In Earn to Die, your goal is to make it out of the parched, desolate desert in one piece. The catch? Your car is surrounded by hordes of zombies that will stop at nothing to make sure you're their next meal. This game offers multiple unlockable cars and ridiculously fun upgrades such as rocket engine attachments and machine guns. Smashing through zombies has never been so fun, and this app is worth every penny. Not sure yet? Try the Lite version first—it's free, but has only a few levels.



Driving through the apocalypse has never been so deadly (or so much fun) as it is in Earn to Die.

The Ultimate Win/Win Scenario

While other people might prefer to cozy up to a football game or a movie, apocalypse believers prefer to continually hone their survival skills. Below are five reasons why zombie apps might someday save your life.

- 1 Awareness:** Just knowing that a zombie apocalypse could begin at any point in time will give you an edge against the undead.
- 2 Understanding:** Knowing who and what your enemy is—an undead carnivore who prefers human flesh—instantly puts you at the top of the food chain.
- 3 Battle Tactics:** Knowing what weapons—and what household items—work best when killing zombies can make you the king of your cul-de-sac.
- 4 Survival Skills:** Where to hide, when to run, how to find supplies, who to count on and who to question—all these are things that will be easier if you've already spent countless hours going over the possible scenarios.
- 5 Ready for action:** The very act of getting adrenaline pumping through your veins puts you in a constant state of fight-or-flight, which is exactly what you'll need when the zombie menace rears its ugly undead head. And nothing gets your adrenaline pumping faster than a good zombie app.

“Most of the population is either dead or transformed into bloodthirsty, shambling corpses....”



Zombie Dice

By Steve Jackson Games
Available for Apple and Windows Phone devices (Free)

Check out our article “Table Top Terror and Triumph” on page 114 of this issue to read about the boardgame Zombie Dice. You’ll want to pick up this electronic version for free, so you can take the fun with you.



A free electronic version of the boardgame, Zombie Dice, lets you take the zombie apocalypse on the road.

And Now, An Important Message...

Can't resist letting your mind wander? Wondering what you'll look like if the walking dead ever get their hands on you? Or maybe your bunker buddies need a little reminder about why it's important to keep up on their training. Either way, just use this handy app to light a fire under some lazy bones.

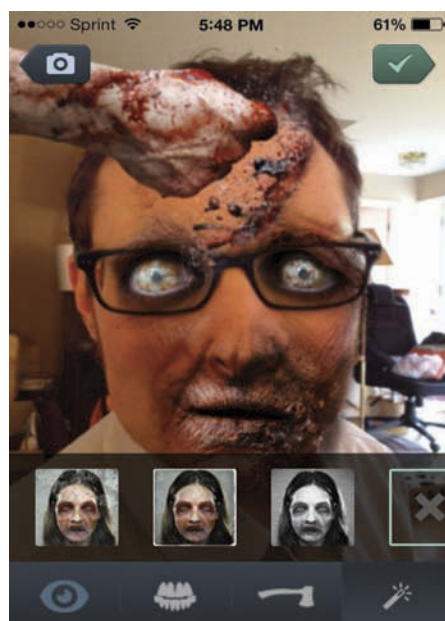


The Walking Dead: Dead Yourself

By AMC Network Entertainment LLC
Available for Apple and Android devices (Free)

Not your run-of-the-mill zombie photobooth, this app is updated with the most grotesque zombie body parts imaginable. Snap a pic of you or a friend, make sure it fits within the guides on the screen, and then go to town adding zombified eyes, jaws, lighting and more. Incredibly realistic effects overlay your photo and make for a stomach-churning final product.

Transform yourself in a zombie with this free Dead Yourself app, from AMC Network Entertainment LLC.





Dead Trigger

By MADFINGER Games

**Available for Apple
and Android devices (Free)**

In this first-person shooter, a deadly virus has swept the planet and most of the population are either dead or transformed into bloodthirsty, shambling corpses intent on eating your flesh. Can you negotiate the city, salvage for supplies, rescue survivors and uncover the truth about what happened? The action is intense and relentless as zombies press in on all sides and your ammo count drops perilously low. It's free to play, but you'll find progress slow without springing for in-app purchases.



This free game from MADFINGER Games might be slow, but the zombies are non-stop.



ZombieSmash

By Zynga Inc.

**Available for Apple and Android
devices (\$0.99)**

It seems as if Zynga can do no wrong when it comes to online games, and ZombieSmash is no exception. This funny zombie-killing game mixes physics and tower defense gameplay with multiplayer options. You have to fend off hordes of zombies using 30 special implements and a little brain-power (while you still have a brain). Use asteroids, liquid nitrogen, wrecking balls and more—all to produce hilarious and unique zombie deaths. This game comes with four modes: Campaign, Endless Siege, Sandbox, and Multiplayer Battle.



Boasting multiplayer options and 30 special implements for battling the undead, Zombie Smash offers four modes of zombie destruction.



Bomberman vs. Zombies

By Contlex Labs

**Available for iPhoneAndroid,
Blackberry and Windows Phone
devices (Free)**

Guide Bomberman through mazes in this puzzle game, collecting power-ups and blowing up zombies. You win by either blowing up all the zombies or by finding the key that lets you through the escape hatch. Lots of different zombies—including some that can teleport (!), exciting music and plenty of gratuitous explosions add to the excitement of this game. **Z**



Make your way through the maze or find a way to escape—you win either way in Bomberman versus Zombies.

Apocalypse Reads

Stories to read as the end of the world draws near.

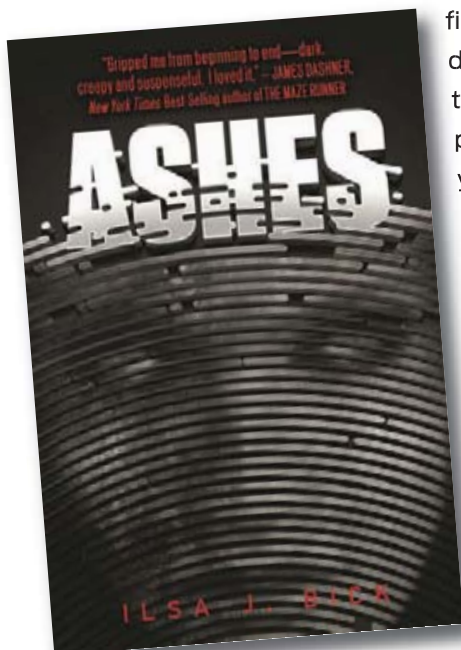
BY CAROLYN KOH

“Ashes (Ashes Trilogy #1)”

Author: Ilsa Bick

Teenager Alex has an inoperable brain tumor and her parents are dead. Taking a final wilderness trek, she meets up with 8-year old Ellie and her grandfather. They are sitting around her camp when the world explodes around them in screaming pain, killing Ellie’s grandfather. Alex takes charge of Ellie and they trek back towards the safety of civilization, which as they begin to realize, is not as safe as they think. In a world with crazed animals and human

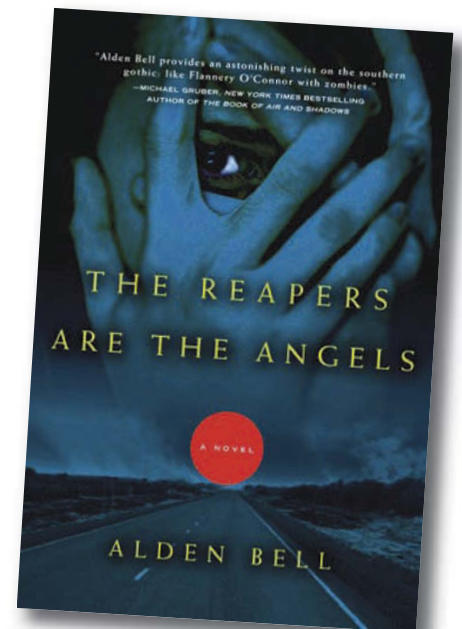
raiders, where even finding food is a desperate struggle, they meet a third person, Tom, a young former soldier. The unlikely trio band together in this new world and if simply surviving wasn’t tough enough, they meet the Changed. The humans that are no longer human.

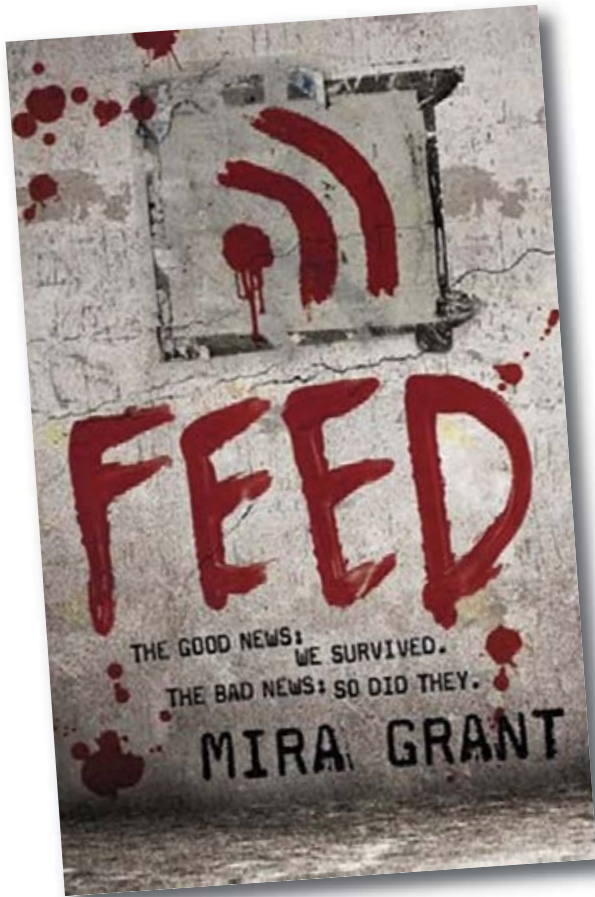


“The Reapers are the Angels”

Author: Alden Bell

America has fallen to the zombie infestation and a young girl by name of Temple ekes out a survival, ruminating in her own pugnacious, colorful Southern manner over the horror that is her normal every day life. We follow along as she avoids the “meatskins” that shamle mindlessly after her, and muses philosophically on her life and everything around her. In an act of self-preservation, she takes off across the nation on a road-trip and readers are treated to gruesome encounters interspersed with the contrasting beauty of the landscape around her and retrospection when she broods. The premise is bleak and horrific, yet so beautifully written it draws you deep into the story until you are cheering for Temple’s eventual rescue and redemption.



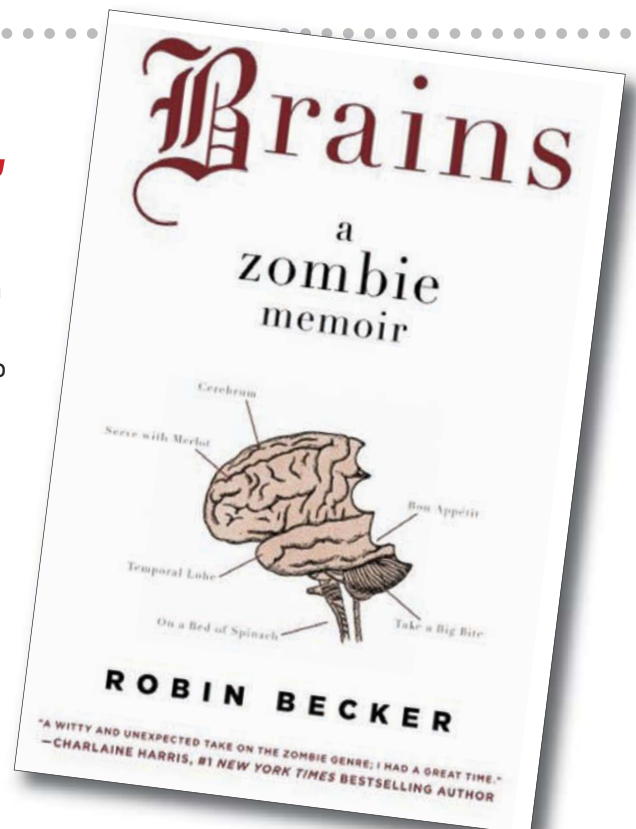


“Feed (NewsFlesh Trilogy #1)” **Author: Mira Grant**

We have cured cancer with a man-made virus. We have cured the common cold. Unfortunately, when the two combined, there were unexpected results. Normally beneficial, the virus “amplifies” on the death of its host and converts its mammalian host into a zombie with only one directive; FEED! The story revolves around journalists, bloggers, politicians, social media and zombies. What’s not to like when zombies attack campaign convoys and we find out it was orchestrated by a rival group? Was it the scheming vice presidential candidate, the CDC or the mysterious conspirators? This Hugo Award winning novel is horror thriller at its best.

“Brains: A Zombie Memoir” **Author: Robin Becker**

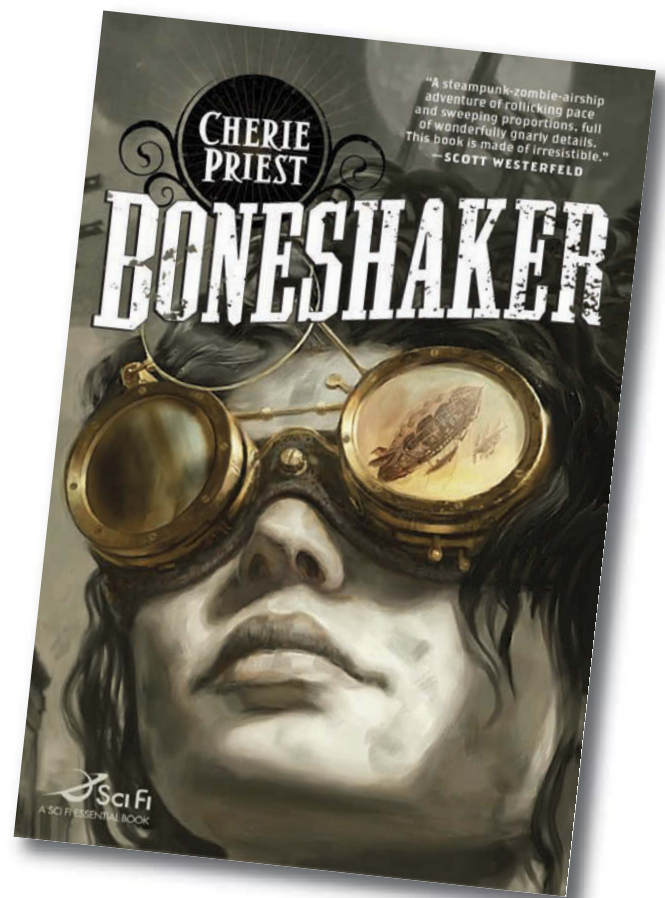
A darkly humorous story about a band of zombies with heart, this novella follows zombified college professor Jack Barnes as he travels on a cross-country pilgrimage to meet the maker of the virus that changed him. Along the way, he picks up an entourage of other “super” zombies, each with powers that make them more than a shambling unthinking horror. There’s the sprinter, a young dreadlocked boy named Guts, and Joan, the matronly nurse who’s adept at reattaching decaying appendages—quite a skill for a zombie. Written in the first person, it’s a funny yet rather touching story about searching for humanity.



“Boneshaker”

Author: Cherie Priest

Set in an alternate version of Seattle and after the American Civil War, Cherie Priest melds steampunk and zombies in this Hugo Award nominated science fiction novel. The Boneshaker that the title is derived from is a gigantic drilling machine that had a disastrous first run, rendering most of Seattle into a city of the dead from a poisonous gas released from underground. Except the gas that did everyone in didn't just kill people, it turned them into zombies. The city built a wall to contain the “rotters” but years later, a young boy's curiosity leads him over that wall. You see, his father had built the machine and he needs to seek the truth about his publicly vilified father.



“Zombie Haiku: Good Poetry for your... Brains”

Author: Ryan Mecum

Written from the perspective of a zombie, from creation (death) to unlife, the experiences and memories of a zombie are chronicled in a form of a scrapbook journal. Like a scrapbook, it has illustrations; scraps of notes taped in, photographs attached by paperclips and smears of blood and other fluids we'd rather not know about. The journal proper is written in Haiku form, with 5-7-5 syllables. Better for the fan of horror poetry than of haiku, the poetry is mostly narrative. Some are awkward, some horrific, and there are some gems.

We fall down the steps

His neck snaps and he lays still

My neck snaps but I eat

And better,

Little old ladies

Speed away in their wheelchairs

Frightened meals on wheels



Holy Apocalypse! *By Merrie Destefano*

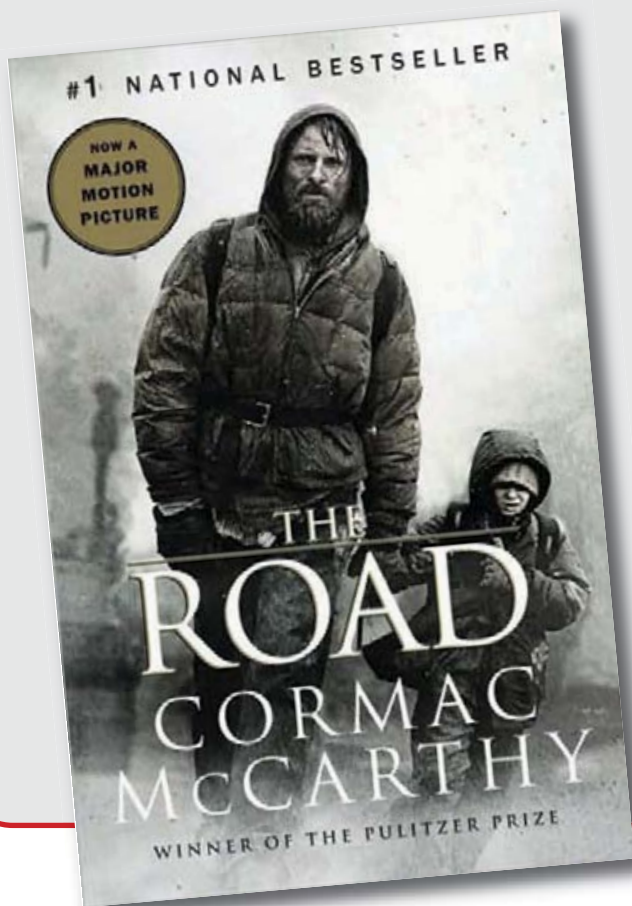
What if the apocalypse takes an unexpected turn for the worse and zombies aren't there? The following

two books depict realistic and dreadful end-of-the-world scenarios that should be on every apocalypse-believers list.

"The Hallowed Ones"

By Laura Bickle

A young Amish girl's dreams of Rumspringa—a time when she can leave her sheltered community and experience the world—are shattered when something horrible happens and an unnatural evil is unleashed in the world outside. The Amish elders forbid anyone to leave their community or any strangers to be allowed inside. But even that can't protect them from the unholy apocalypse that is spreading outside their gates.



"The Road"

By Cormac McCarthy

The world has been mysteriously transformed into an Armageddon-like landscape where winter never ends, ash covers everything and most of the humans who have survived have turned into cannibals. Against this horrific backdrop, a father tries to both protect his young son and instill a sense of hope in him. McCarthy makes his story transcendent by using evocative, poetic language to portray the struggle for survival in a world gone wrong. **Z**

Rock Around the Zombie

Zombies in contemporary music videos: why is there a connection?

BY SEAN COOPER

Zombies have been devouring the flesh of living beings since the dawn of time, but it's just recently that these ghastly creatures have gone mainstream. The undead are no strangers to pop culture, appearing in everything from movies to comic books and even music videos.

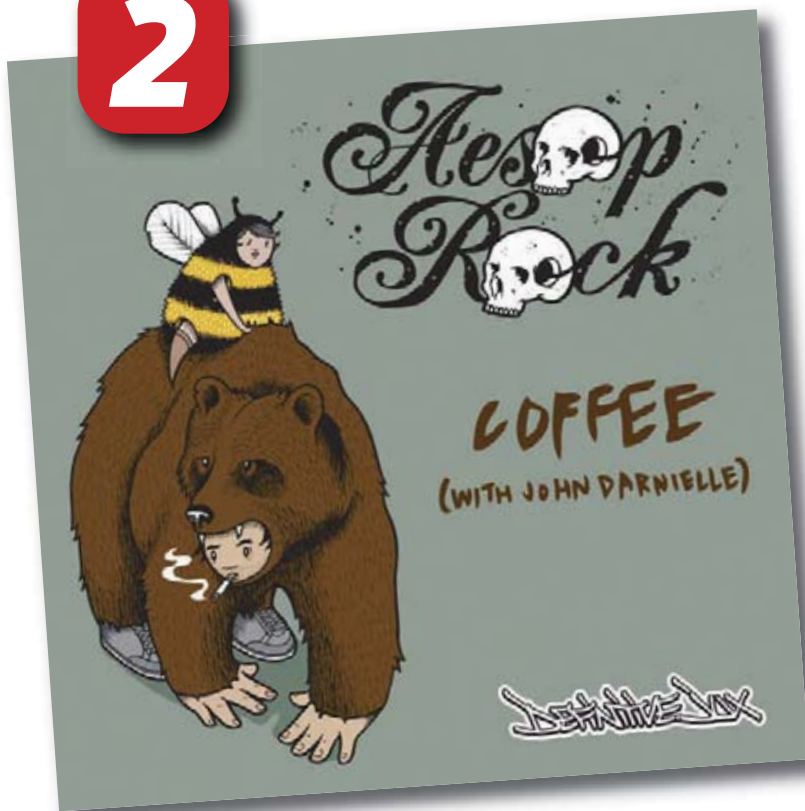
Zombies have had their fair share of music video appearances over the years, although what's interesting is each artist uses them differently. The undead can be brought in for someone with a dark sense of humor or used as a serious threat. Let's take a look at zombies in music videos and see if there really is a connection in their clever uses.



Captain Clegg & The Night Creatures—“Zombie A Go Go”

If anyone can successfully reboot the popular *Halloween* film franchise and do it justice, it's Rob Zombie. The second installment, *Halloween II*, prominently features psychobilly band Captain Clegg & the Night Creatures. In “Zombie A Go Go,” you can rock out to the unique fusion of rock music mixes with punk rock and rockability, as zombies feast on the brains and organs of ill-fated mortals. The theme is catchy and the music video is gory—perfect for zombie fans!

2



Aesop Rock— “Coffee”

What happens when you mix hip-hop with the undead? You get Aesop Rock, an underground artist that went mainstream in the 2000s. Aesop Rock can best be described as a mix of Nickelback with a dose of Pink Floyd. “Coffee” from the album “None Shall Pass” has all the goriness and bloodshed you’d expect from a zombie music video, but with a twist—think zombies meet Weird Al Yankovic. It’s not as gory as Captain Clegg, but it still has plenty of bloodshed to quench your thirst.

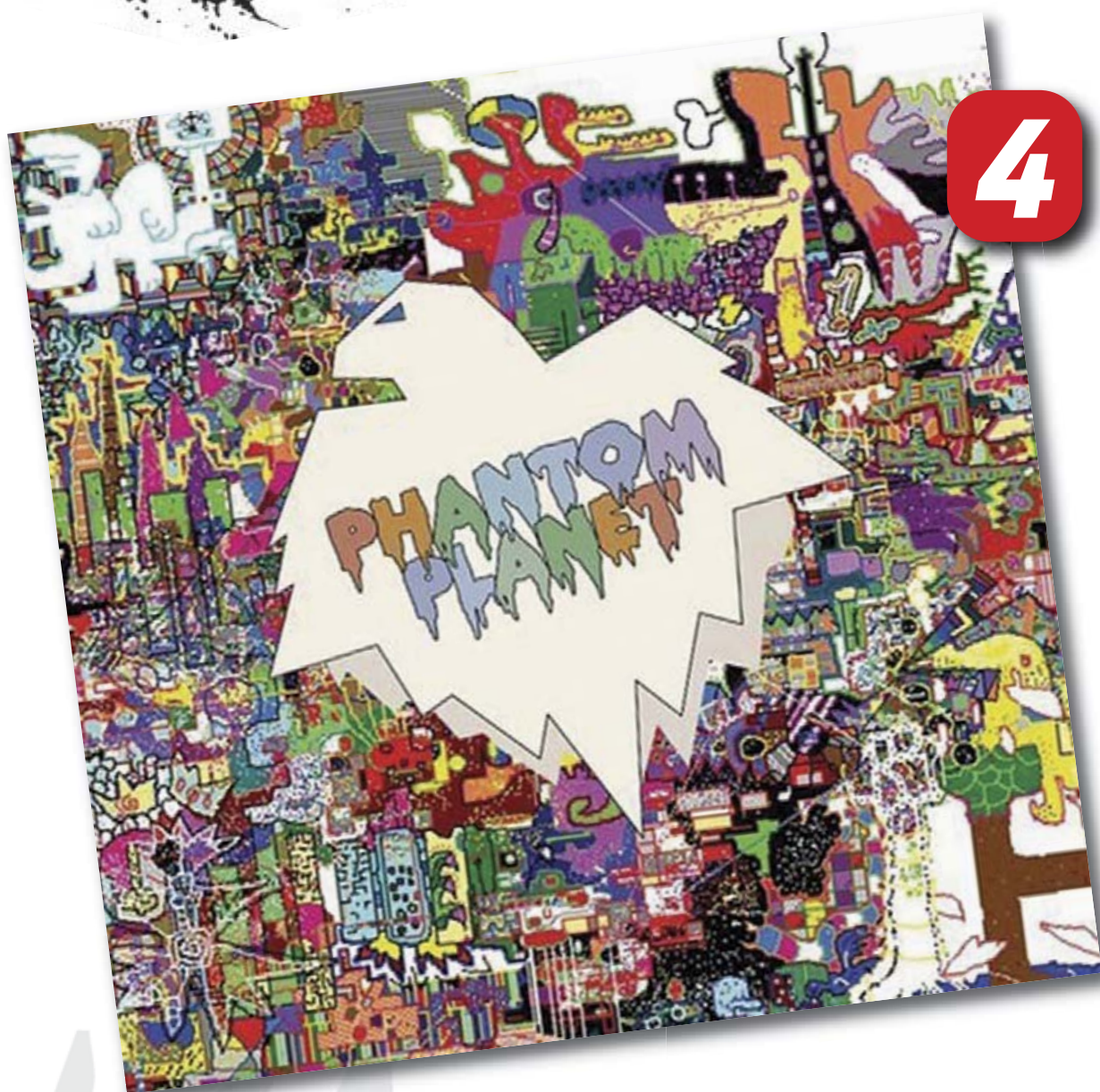
Blondie—“Mother”

You’d think with a name like “Mother” you’d be safe from zombies. If American rock band Blink 182 has taught us anything, it’s that names can be deceiving—just listen to their harmlessly named song “Mother’s Day.” Mother is actually the name of a nightclub where the band Blondie is performing. The club attendees are having such a great time on the dance floor that they end up accidentally waking up flesh-eaters. As the undead make their way onto the dance floor they turn everyone into zombies, with Blondie finally join the rank of the undead to end the video.



3

4



Phantom Planet—“*Big Brat*”

Same-named rock band Phantom Planet took a big risk when it released its third album. “Phantom Planet” marked a change in the band’s sound from pop rock to garage rock, similar to American rock band, the Strokes. “Big Brat” helped gain the band exposure in the early 2000s. The music video features the band performing in an urban setting as a low-budget zombie flick is being filmed nearby—great music and zombies; it’s the best of both worlds for fans of the restless dead. What’s not to love?

5



Rihanna—“*Disturbia*”

Rihanna brings a whole new meaning to being disturbed in the music video “Disturbia.” Rihanna is probably best known for her much-publicized on-again-off-again relationship with singer Chris Brown, but even Rihanna has her run-ins with brain biters. Although zombies don’t actually pop up in the music video, she does have some zombie-inspired scenes, including being imprisoned with her eyes rolling to the back of her head, sitting in a throne chair with nowhere to go, and being tied up in a bed.



6

Metric—“*Monster Hospital*”

Who ever said zombie fever was exclusive to America? Hailing from the great white North, Canada, “Monster Hospital” is featured on Metric’s third album, “Live It Out.” The music video features a variety of creepy scenes, including the outstretched arms of zombies trying to pull poor Emily Haines through her carpet, blood leaking from a light bulb, and guitarist Jimmy Shaw drenched in blood. It’s truly a blood-chilling music experience for fans of the undead! **Z**

Sean Cooper has been a long-time fan of the undead and horror flicks. He has fond memories of watching Friday the 13th each and every Halloween as a teenager.

NICE GUYS

Become Zombies

BY MERRIE DESTEFANO

In season four of *The Walking Dead*, we saw nice guy Patrick become a zombie, right inside the safety of the prison. What can you do to protect yourself from the inevitable nice-guy-finishes-as-a-walker syndrome?

- 1 Adopt a badass attitude from the very beginning of the apocalypse.
- 2 Keep a stash of elderberry tea on hand, all the time.
- 3 Don't throw out your old, left-over antibiotics. Toss them in your go bag.
- 4 Remember, zombies aren't always the biggest threat.
- 5 Avoid the chess club and take up target practice instead.

GENE PAGE/AMC

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